

AMERICAN POULTRY  
SCHOOL  
KANSAS CITY  
MISSOURI

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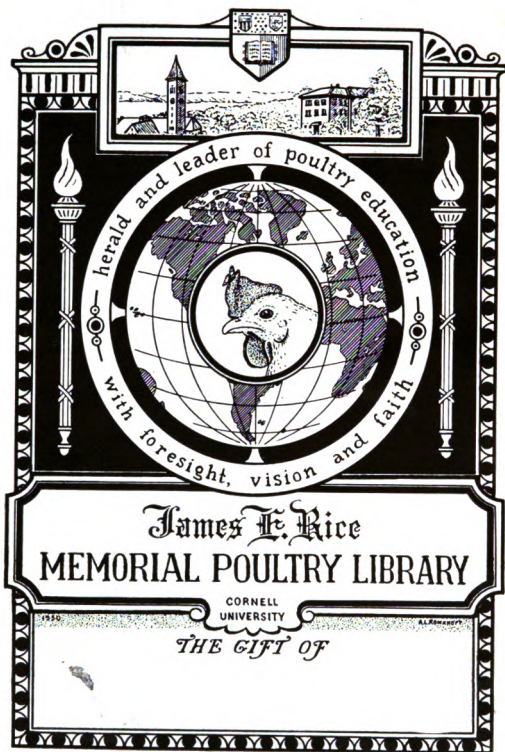
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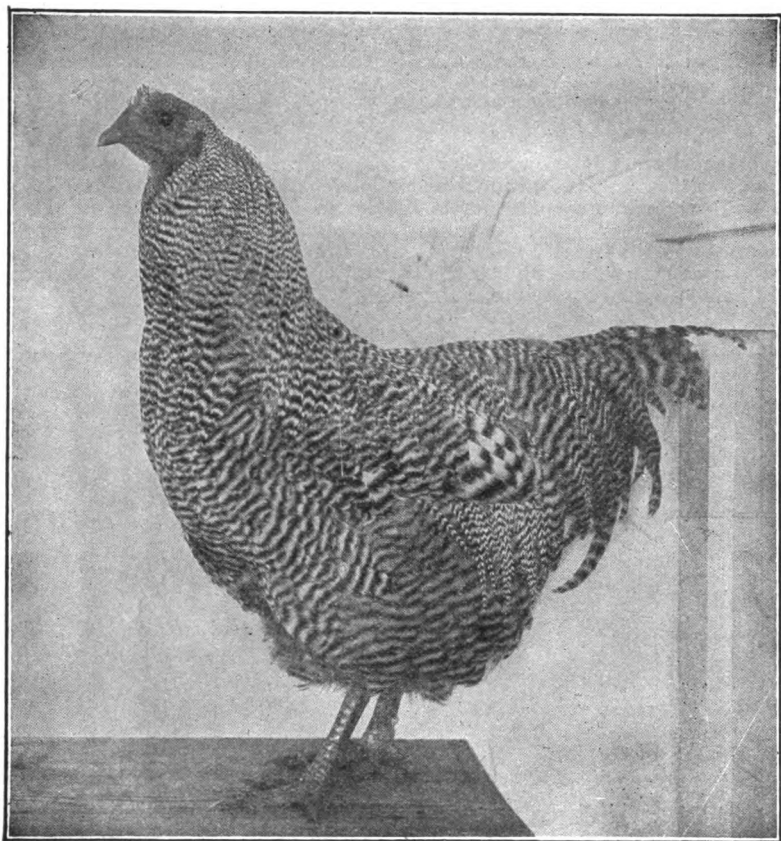
# CAPONS ARE PROFITABLE

BY T. E. QUISENBERRY

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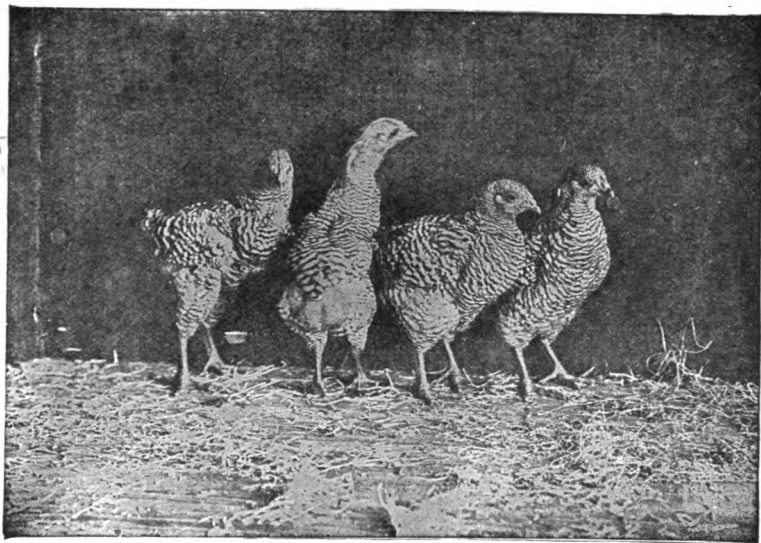
**O**NE GREAT drain upon the poultry industry in past years has been that caused by poultrymen having to market practically one-half of their young stock each season at a loss, or at little more than the mere cost of production. The young males are too often allowed to grow staggy, and are then placed upon the market at a price which does not cover the cost of production.

The caponizing of a large portion of the surplus cockerels is going to aid to a great extent in the solution of this problem and the saving of this loss. In proportion to the amount invested, the caponizing of the



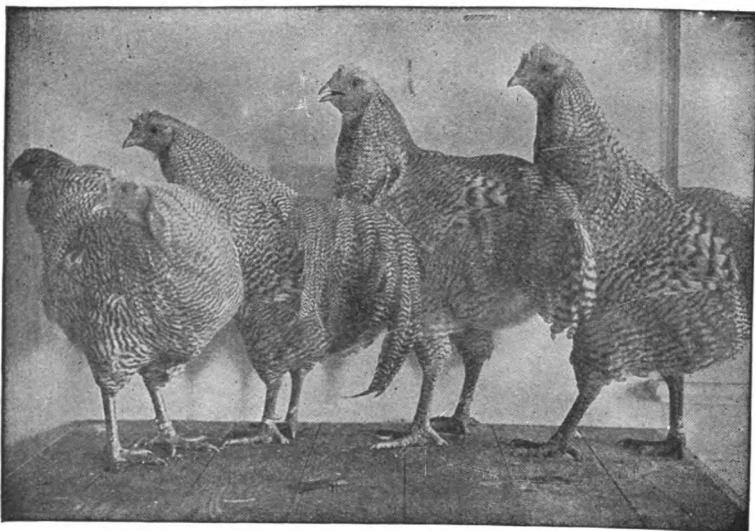
Truly this is "King Capon." This bird has a big frame, good shape and beautiful color. He would have sold for just 24 cents at the time he was caponized. He was caponized on September 1st and this picture was taken on April 1st, at which time this Capon would have sold for at least \$2.50.





Four cockerels as they appeared the day they were caponized. They were **six** weeks old at this time.

surplus cockerels is going to prove more profitable than the castration of male calves and the production of beef cattle. The capon industry in the poultry business corresponds to the beef cattle industry in the live stock business. We unhesitatingly recommend this practice among all farmers or commercial poultrymen, for "Capon Are Profitable." Whenever you cannot secure as much as twenty cents per pound for your cockerels you can afford to caponize them.



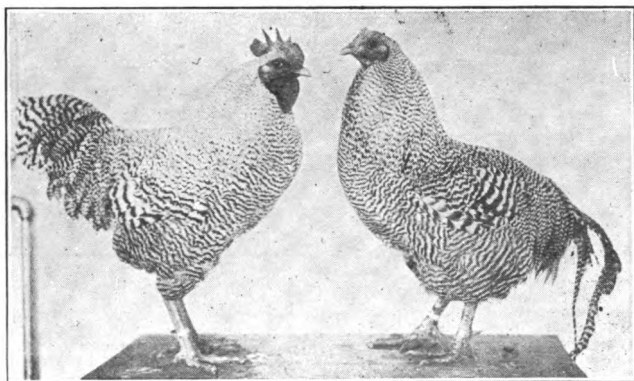
The same four birds after they were caponized and had reached the age of **seven** months.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. George Beuoy, who is well known as the "Capon King," for a great portion of the information contained herein. Mr. Beuoy undoubtedly caponizes more birds each year, and teaches more people how to properly perform the operation, than any other living poultryman.

Thousands of cockerels are marked every season at a price that hardly pays for the feed they have eaten, to say nothing of the care and trouble required to raise them. Why hold your males until they become staggy, develop small spurs, weigh from four to six pounds, and sell on the market for only 15c to 40c each, depending on the size, quality, and market conditions? These same cockerels as capons would weigh eight to twelve pounds each and bring from eighteen to twenty-five cents per pound, live weight. If you don't expect to caponize them, then sell your surplus cockerels as broilers or fryers.

In view of these facts, the question naturally arises, "Why are there not more capons?" There are several reasons. A great many people do not know that there is such a thing as a capon. Still others consider the operation of caponizing either difficult or cruel, and refuse to attempt it. Probably the most common reason, however, is that very few people realize how much more profitable the capon is than the cockerel.

Capons are a rare thing on most farms, because the people who raise poultry have not realized what they are and the profits they bring. In some sections of many of the eastern states capons can be found on nearly every farm, and they bring the best prices of any fowl sold on the market. Some poultrymen claim the reason they are not raised generally is because there is no market for them. It is true, there is no market in some of the small towns and cities, but if they raise enough to make a shipment to any of the larger cities, they would be very readily sold and fancy prices paid for them by the best trade. There is no reason at all why the people shouldn't raise more capons than they do. Instead of

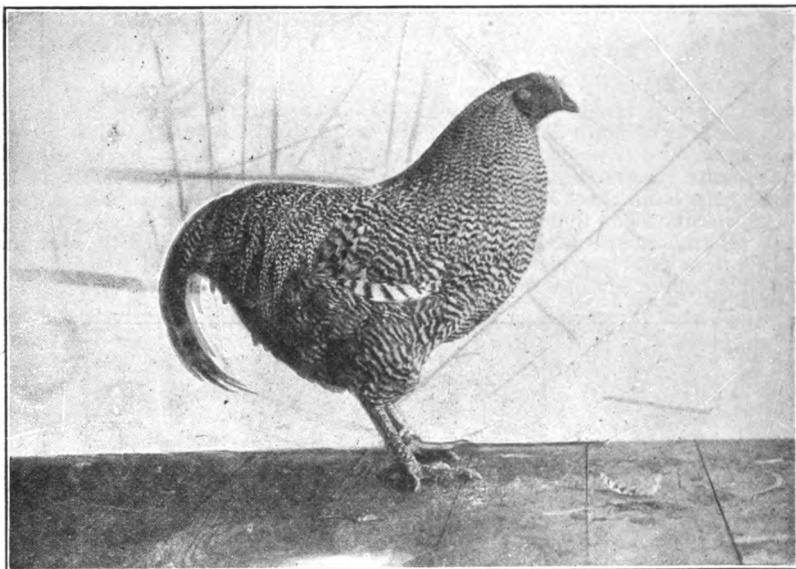


A cockerel and his brother, a capon. They are quite different in shape, as you see above, due to one being caponized. The cockerel stands erect, has large wattles and comb, and carries a high tail. The capon is younger, but equals the cockerel in weight. He does not stand erect, has small wattles and comb and carries a low tail.

having a lot of young cockerels running around loose on the farm eating more feed than they are worth, and always fighting each other, they could be caponized and be worth several times the value of a cockerel, and yet eat no more feed. Caponizing has been in practice for several centuries in foreign countries, but the people here seem to be very slow in taking hold of a good thing. Every year the farmer or poultryman loses money on his market cockerels, and there is only one good way to remedy this, and that is to caponize them. Cockerels at the age of two to four months will barely pay for themselves, and as they grow older they decrease in value and increase in expense. It is just the opposite with the capon.



A capon is a male bird (cockerel) from which the testicles have been removed. He bears the same relation to a cockerel that a steer does to a bull. He has only one function in life, and that is to grow and get fat. He grows much faster, the comb and wattles cease to grow, his plumage is heavy and beautiful, he gets very lazy, and neither hen nor rooster have any more to do with him. Later on he becomes a very intimate friend of the little chickens and sometimes broods over them at night. If the poultryman expects to make the most out of his business, the capon is an absolute necessity. He makes quick, tender meat, much of it, and, best of all, he brings the highest price on the market. If properly dressed, he attracts the attention of the best buyers, to whom money is no object, if they can get what they want. To the great profit of the farmer, these epicures find what they want in the capon, and, best of all, he is sure money, quick money and easy money. Caponizing has at last solved the problem as to what to do with extra cockerels that are not needed for breeding.



A simple operation, quickly and easily performed, transferred this bird from the loss column and placed him in the profit column. Caponizing of at least a few cockerels should be practiced on every farm and in every poultry yard. The above capon is becoming filled and rounded out with layers of flesh and fat just as a fat steer would be. Whenever you are compelled to take less than 20 cents per pound for your cockerels you can afford to caponize them. Make certain that they are of the correct size. Avoid "slips" and "stags."

The operation of caponizing is so simple and easy that a ten-year-old child of ordinary intelligence can easily learn to perform it. With a little practice one becomes very skillful, and can caponize from twenty to forty cockerels per hour.

The cockerels should be caponized when they are quite small, not larger than quails. This is usually when they are from six to ten weeks old. At this time the testicles are about the size of a plump grain of wheat or perhaps as large as a bean. The loss of blood and shock of the operation is such that it is not advisable to caponize cockerels after they begin to crow and worry the hens. When performed on young two-months-old cockerels there is very little loss of blood, and practically no pain connected with the operation.

The method of operation can be learned from the printed instructions that accompany most all advertised instruments, but any one endeavoring

to teach himself should operate on several dead cockerels before attempting live ones. If not done, death is almost sure to come to the first ones he operates on. If you follow the instructions given in this book you **CANNOT FAIL**.

A large number of people hesitate in caponizing, feeling it to be cruel to the bird. This is not true, because long experience has proven differently, and also the operator bestows an unlimited amount of kindness on the bird, even if there were not other considerations or returns. Most everyone who has had anything at all to do with poultry has seen cockerels fly at each other time after time, tearing flesh and feathers with beak and cutting with spurs. Before they could be separated there has been a disfigured comb, sometimes a blind eye, and generally a cut-up bird. This is the cruelty of the cockerel before he is caponized, but after



A S. C. Red capon, eight months old. Shows that he has a big frame and can be made to weigh 12 to 14 pounds very easily.

being caponized his habits are entirely changed. His disposition is quiet and peaceful, habit mild and tending to a solitary life and satisfied wherever you put him.

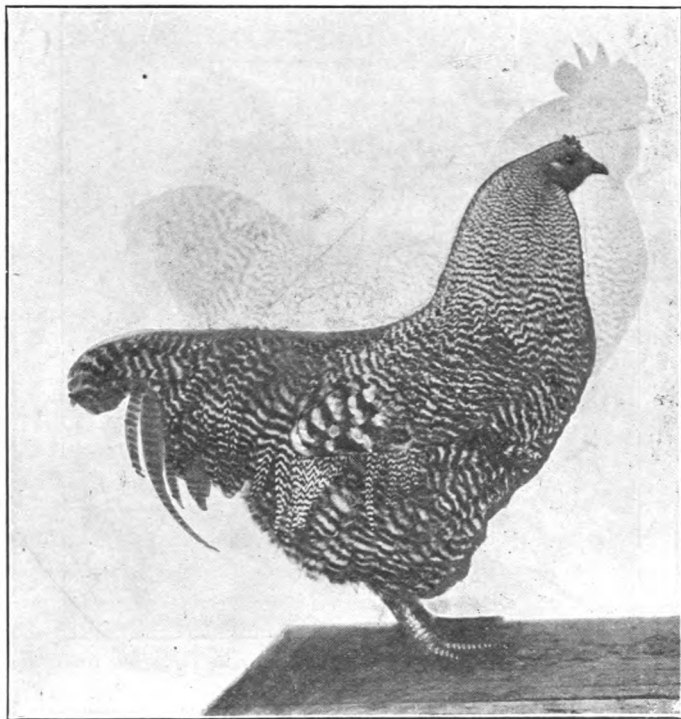
It is important to get good caponizing instruments. They will last a lifetime and save trouble. All capon tool manufacturers send complete instructions for caponizing with their tools, and Mr. Beuoy has given instructions in detail in the following chapter, so that it is unnecessary to give detailed instructions here, because the operation varies with each set of tools.

If you get your cockerels in the right condition before you attempt to caponize them, the operation is half performed. Keep them confined to a coop which should be placed in a dark, cool room. Do not feed or allow them to have a drop of water for at least thirty-six hours before they are operated on. There will be little or no bleeding if this is done.



The first and most important thing, then, in caponizing is having the cockerels in shape to operate on. From twenty-four to thirty-six hours before performing the operation, select the cockerels you intend to caponize, confining them in a clean, dry room or pen, without water or food. To do this with the best results, confine them early in the morning, and in the afternoon of the next day they will be in excellent condition to perform the operation upon.

Both testicles can be removed from the same side, but for beginners two incisions are the best, being less difficult and not as dangerous to the fowl. Some caponizers, who claim to be authority on caponizing, say that two incisions are the safest for any one, professional or amateur, and almost the same rapidity can be made. Also, the birds will recover as soon from two cuts as from one. If both testicles are taken out of the same incision, the lower one should be taken out first because the blood runs down, and if the top one is taken out first, the blood would cover up the lower one and you would be unable to see it.

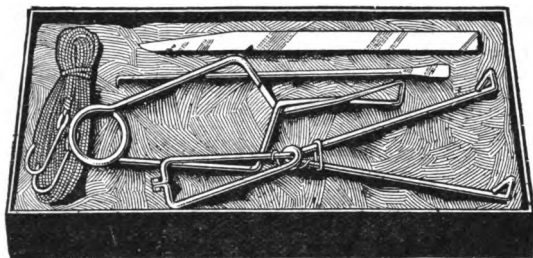


This shows the outline of a cockerel just back of a capon. The cockerel is raised some higher than the capon so he may be more easily seen. You can easily see the difference in carriage. The comb and wattles on the capon have never developed and he has a small head. The cockerel's comb, wattles and head are larger.

After caponizing the capons should be kept in a clean, quiet, cool pen for a week, until the wounds have time to heal. During this time they should be given soft feed and water. Don't feed too freely immediately following the operation. It is a good plan to examine them two or three days after the operation for "wind puffs" which sometimes form under the skin. These can be reduced by puncturing one side of the swelling with a sharp darning needle or penknife. After a week they can be turned out with the rest of the flock.

Keep the capons growing nicely until about three weeks before mar-

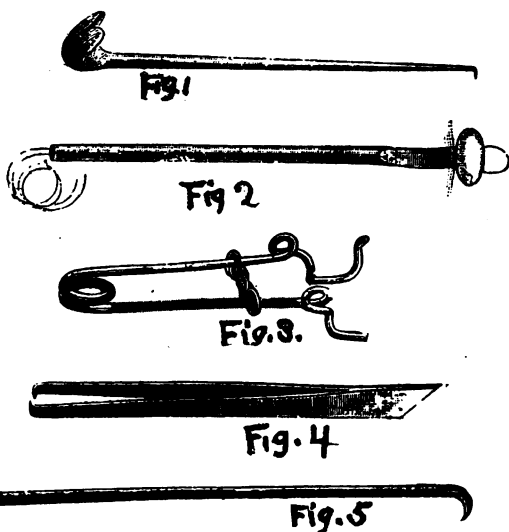
**keting**, when they should be penned and fattened. Seventy pounds of corn meal, thirty pounds low grade flour, twenty pounds dry beef scraps and ten pounds of wheat bran make an excellent fattening food. Mix about two pounds of buttermilk or sour milk with each pound of the above mash mixture, and feed all they will clean up in twenty or thirty minutes. Feed this twice a day. Also give them all the grit and charcoal they will eat. Corn meal made sloppy with buttermilk or sour milk makes a splendid fattening ration.



Automatic and Safe Capon Tools, Ready for Use.

In dressing capons for market never cut off the head, as the head with the undeveloped comb is the feature that proves to the city buyer that the birds marketed really are capons. In picking it is usually customary to leave the head and hackle feathers on, feathers on the wings to the second joint, the tail feathers including those a little way up the back and the feathers on the legs half way up the thighs.

Most poultry raisers will probably prefer to sell their capons alive rather than dressed. Since marketing the capons is a new departure in many sections, some difficulty may be experienced in getting the local



The old style capon tools which have been replaced by safer, saner and better tools. Fig. 1 is the twisting spoon. Fig. 2 is the canula used for separating the testicle from the bird's body. This instrument is threaded with a fine wire. Fig. 3 is the spreader. Fig. 4 is the knife and tweezers combined. Fig. 5 is the hook for picking the tissues. These tools are more or less out of date and we do not recommend them.



buyers to quote a special price on them. Most of them, however, will be glad to do so.

In making capons profitable the five most essential things which you must keep in mind are as follows:

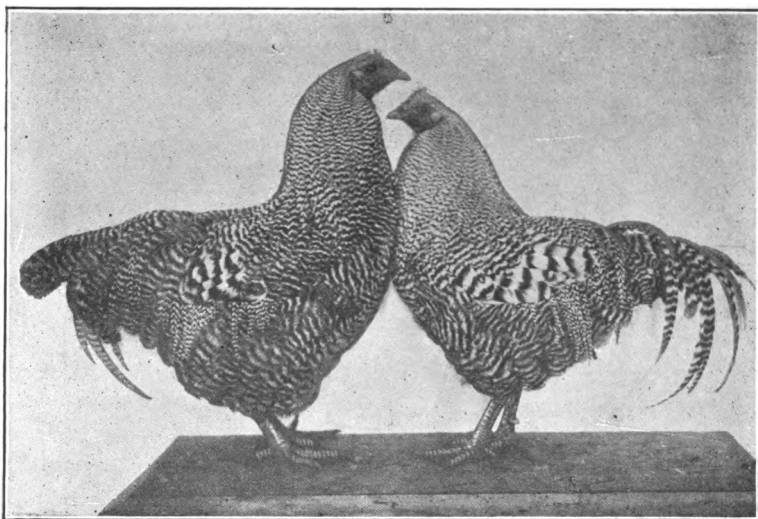
1. The most important thing is to see that the birds are in proper condition before being caponized. They must be kept in a cool, dark place, without feed or water, for at least thirty-six hours before caponizing.

2. Caponize when the birds are ripe—just before the comb shows much sign of development. In most varieties this is just about the time you can begin to tell the cockerels from the pullets. It is better to have them too small than too large.

3. Good instruments are a necessity. You cannot prevent death and “slips” without them. If you want the best tools write us and we will tell you the kind to get and where to get them.

4. Operate from both sides. Make incision and remove the organ next to you, then turn the bird over and repeat the operation. This method is best for amateurs. Operate on two or three dead cockerels which you have killed for frying until you can readily locate the organs and become familiar with the operation.

5. Cockerels should be marketed as broilers or fryers, or else caponized. As a general rule, cockerels which cannot be profitably marketed at a weight of two pounds or less by July 1st should be caponized. Don't market capons and “slips” in the same crate. Fatten them before marketing.



A pair of capons whose flesh is as tender as that of a broiler and as juicy and sweet as that of a pullet

Capons bring the highest prices from January to May each year. The larger the capons the higher the price per pound. For this reason it rarely pays to market capons before they are eight to twelve months old. Naturally the larger breeds, such as the Brahmas, Orpingtons, Plymouth Rocks, Langshans, Reds, Wyandottes, and similar varieties, make the best capons.

Quality counts in capons as well as in all other animals. Pure bred fowls show up their quality, run much more even in all market requirements than common or mixed breeds, and, therefore, it is very desirable

to use Standard or pure bred fowls for capons. You can make capons from any kind of fowls, no matter what breed you have, and you can do it any month of the year provided the birds are right as to development. Sold as capons they will bring you three or four times as much as if sold on the market in any other way. Half the chicks hatched each year are males. It seems to me that about the only way to realize a profit from this half of your flock is to make capons of them. Especially is this true of the late spring, summer and fall hatched ones.

We do not wish to leave the impression that caponizing is any get-rich-quick scheme. We do believe it is profitable to caponize your cockerels if you cannot market them at profitable prices as broilers. Study your markets and be governed somewhat by them as to the extent to which you go in the number of fowls caponized. You can usually afford to caponize them if the price is lower than twenty cents per pound for broilers.

### WIND PUFFS

In regard to Wind Puffs, I find that a considerable proportion of new beginners are bothered by having some of their birds develop Wind Puffs. Especially is this true when they work on only eight or ten birds as a starter. If they would work on fifty or a hundred birds at one time they would get the necessary practice and the Wind Puff problem would not bother them so much.

The condition of the bird has a lot to do with the Wind Puffs. Most people select runts and culls for this purpose and as you know these birds are not usually in the best condition.

The best method we have found to prevent Wind Puffs is to take a long stitch through the puffed part with common sewing thread, No. 40 or 50 white cotton. If the stitch holes are drawn out so that the two points where the thread passes through meet, and the thread tied in a tight knot so as to keep the two openings stretched somewhat, the air will escape and the puffs will go down. The needle holes will then pucker shut. In case the air puff should start to form again the stretched skin will permit the holes to open again automatically. If correctly done you see it would be impossible for the birds to puff at all.

The success of this treatment depends on the long stitch through the puffed part and drawing the two needle holes together and to tie tightly. This should not be done unless the bird is puffed, but if it is done right it cannot fail to work.

I believe that most cases of wind puffs can be eliminated if the operator will keep his instruments in a pan of water which contains some good disinfectant. The knife, the spreader, the remover and all other instruments used should be dropped into the water containing the disinfectant between each operation. That seems to prevent practically all cases of wind puffs. This method of prevention of wind puffs is worth far more than the cure, and I recommend it to all of our students.

# WHAT'S A CAPON AND WHY?

By George Beuoy, Cedar Vale, Kansas.    The Capon King.

A capon is an unsexed male bird. They are not hatched that way. To become a capon a young bird must be operated on in much the same manner as any other animal intended for eating purposes. The operation correctly performed, the capon grows to nearly twice the size he would, had he been left entire. His flesh is the juiciest, sweetest and most tender of any known meat, selling for much more per pound than any other kind of fowl. In fact, the capon has become a modern necessity. For-



GEORGE BEUOY.



MRS. GEORGE BEUOY.

The People Who Put "Cap" in Capon.

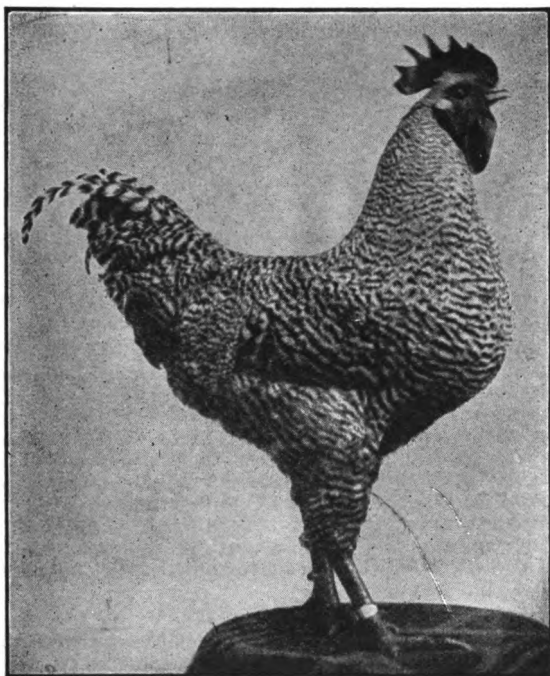
merly capon was the most expensive luxury to be had. Capon in the olden times was the crowning event in the feast of the ancient kings and queens. Capons are still the greatest delicacy that can be placed before the particular epicure. Their rich, wholesome, tender flesh contains the life-giving, brain-forming, strength-producing food that is required by the high strung workingman of modern times, be his work indoors or out.

Up to the present time "Capons" have been enjoyed only by the wealthy and well-to-do classes, with the possible exception, perhaps, of a very few expert poultrymen who had mastered the art and learned to perform the operation with the old style tools. Modern invention and ingenuity have placed the capon within the reach of everyone with energy and ambition enough to feed and care for a chicken. In order to have some capons, all that is necessary is to remove the young cockerel's reproducing organs. These organs are not exposed on the outside of the body as they are in the larger animals, but are carried on the inside. You will find them just under the backbone, one on each side, and in line between the last two ribs.



In order to remove these organs it is absolutely necessary to use some kind of instrument. The success of the operation will depend upon the character of the tools used.

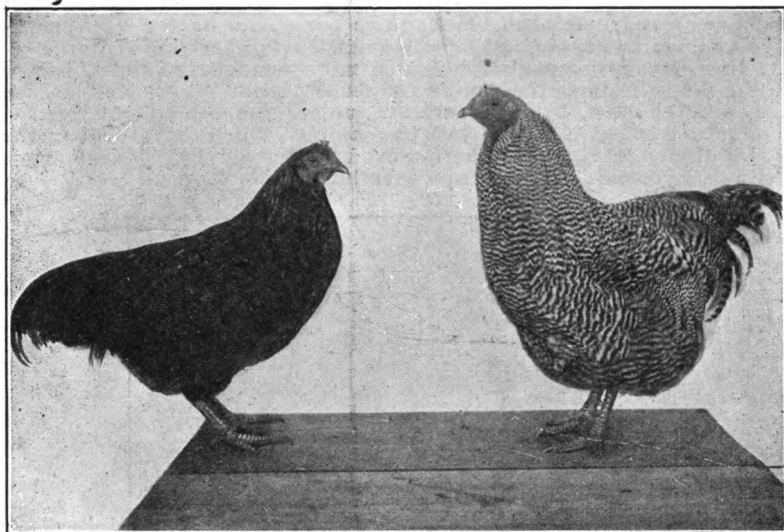
It is a fact that capons should be found in every section where chickens are raised the world over. Yet there are a great many people in America who have never heard of a capon. Surely there must be some good reason why poultry raisers have not made some capons. By all the laws of common sense they should be as popular in the poultry yards as steers are in the cattle lots. The demand for capons is just as great as it is for steers. Capons command much the higher price per pound on the open market, and the supply has never as yet been sufficient to meet the requirements. Why, then, has not caponizing become more general? Simply, because, with the old style tools there were too many "slips." Very few birds are killed, or even hurt, by the operation, unless you attempt to use some sort of sharp-edged clipping testicle remover, which is very dangerous. The real discouraging feature heretofore has been due to the large amount of "slips" that would develop from each bunch operated on.



A "Slip." Note the slim body, heavy comb and "clecky" appearance not found in the capon.

A "slip" is no good. He is the scoundrel that has kept the profitable, kind-hearted capon from becoming the most popular bird that the world has ever known. The slip himself cannot be personally blamed for this. The fact is, he no doubt would much prefer to be a capon and in due time enter into his proper place in high society. The slip, however, has to be content with a place midway between the capon and the old rooster, bringing on the market a few cents per pound more than his daddy, the old rooster, and much less than his kind-hearted brother, the capon. A "slip" is caused by an imperfect operation, due principally to a wrongly constructed tool. In making a capon the parts to be removed are very soft and tender, almost like jelly, and attached to the bird with cords and membranes, much the same as in the other animals, except that the organs

are inside the bird's body. The nature of the fowl is such that the smallest particle of these organs, cords or adhering membranes left in the bird will result in nature trying to grow a new organ. With the old style tools it is almost impossible to remove them entire. In fifty to sixty per cent of the cases enough is usually left to cause nature to try to replace them,



A poor type S. C. Red Capon and a good type Barred Plymouth Rock. It pays to breed for shape. Any of the general purpose or meat breeds make very fine capons. The type is controlled largely by selection and breeding.

resulting in the discouraging, unprofitable "slip." Hence the shortage in the world's supply of capons. Of course there are some exceptions; certain sections of the country near the large critical markets, where capons command forty to fifty cents per pound, have stuck to the problem on account of the unusual large profits that were to be made from capons. Certain individuals, after much practice and many expensive experiences, have mastered the art with the old style tools, until they are able to get a fairly large per cent of capons.

These men have made a business of caponizing for the community, charging from five to fifteen cents per bird operated on for their services. Wherever one of these experts is available the capon industry has developed into large proportions.

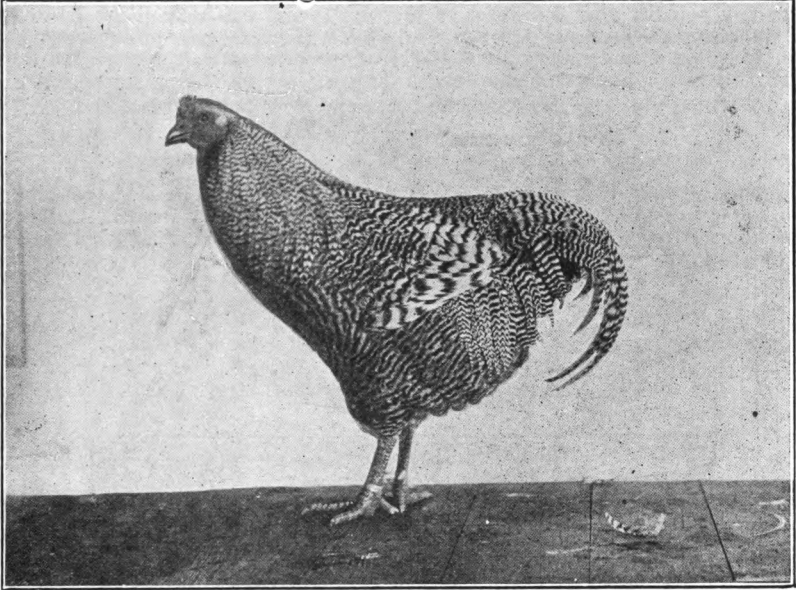
In summing up the facts it at once becomes apparent that capons are very profitable, and much to be desired. The real reason they are not more generally found in this country is the lack of a set of instruments that the ordinary person can use successfully without special training.

Such tools have now been perfected and patented. I have personally tried out these tools and know that they are all that is claimed for them. These tools were originally invented and patents obtained or applied for by myself. These tools work practically automatically and very little skill is required to make a capon with them. Rightly used a "slip" is impossible. Once tried you will never be without capons—they are the greatest eating to be had. That is what we have always thought, but after we had the pleasure of reading the following letter we know it to be a fact. Surely no higher authority than the president of the American Poultry Association need be cited on this point:

Kansas City, Mo., December 24, 1920.

Mr. George Beuoy, Cedar Vale, Kan.

Dear Mr. Beuoy:—I cannot begin to express the thanks of myself and family for the magnificent capon you sent us. He arrived in the afternoon and when I got home I found my little boys had him out playing with him and they thought that he was about big enough to make a horse. I have



A capon about half grown, but showing vigor, style, shape and beauty.

to leave this afternoon, and I just could not bear the thought of leaving without tasting some of that juicy bird. So last night I killed and dressed him and today we had him good and brown. Now I am not flattering you when I say that I have eaten pheasant, ducks, geese and chickens cooked



Twelve Pound White Rock Capon.

by some of the most expert chefs in America, but I never ate anything equal to that capon. I really dread to leave home this afternoon, for two reasons: First, I fear the entire family have eaten so much capon that they will likely get down. Second, I would like to be here for another fine

lunch off that capon served cold. There were twelve of us at a magnificent meal today. Now, this counting in my family and visitors that we invited in to partake of the feast and still there was some to spare. We did not quite get twelve baskets full of fragments, but they have plenty left for supper and I am going away in a short time and will miss finishing the treat. You know how the women appreciate something nice for the table; well, my wife was certainly happy to get that fine capon, and she joins me in expressing our thanks. Mr. Beuoy, I do not know how I can ever pay you for your kindness in this matter, and I hope when I see you at Wichita (at the State Poultry Show) I will be able to make good with you in some way to show you that I appreciate your kindness far more than this letter begins to express.

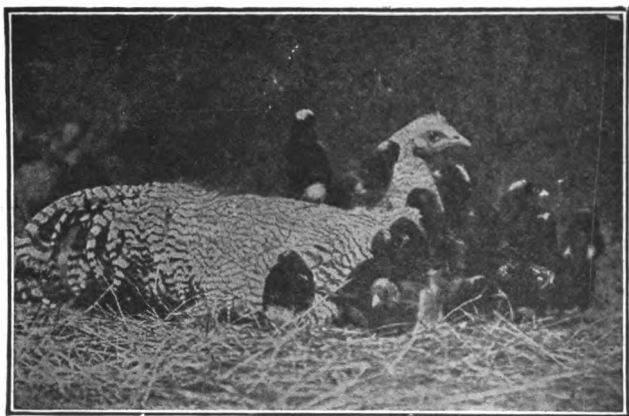
Wishing you a merry Xmas and a happy New Year, I am,

Cordially yours,

REESE V. HICKS.

The above letter was written by Mr. Hicks (at that time president of the American Poultry Association and editor-in-chief of Poultry Culture.) President Hicks voices the sentiments of every one who has tried capons. They are undoubtedly the best eating to be had.

#### CAPONS AS FOSTER MOTHERS.



Real photograph, without retouching in any way. Capons can be used as a means of raising little chicks. On our large experiment farm we have raised from five to six hundred chicks every year for the last five years. These were hatched in incubators and given to capons to raise. They were taken right from the machine and given to the capons. The capons have raised to maturity over 85 per cent of all chicks given to them, a feat that would hardly be possible with any style of brooder. A capon will cluck and hover the little chicks exactly the same as a hen. It requires very little training to have them do this.

(While capons can be taught to brood chicks, yet we do not recommend this practice, as a rule, with very young chicks. When you do find one so inclined, they make good mothers, but we prefer to trust a good brooder or hover in preference.—T. E. Q.)



# THE REASON FOR HIGH PRICES FOR CAPONS

Capons bring high prices; there will always be a demand for them far in excess of the supply. Some makers of capon instruments have enlarged on the prices obtainable for capons and overstated the facts. There is no doubt but that forty to fifty cents per pound can be obtained in certain aristocratic sections for dressed capon in fancy style. However, that is not what interests the average producer. It is the price readily obtain-



A cockerel just the proper size for caponizing.

able on the open market that should govern them. Careful observations covering the last five years and based on Central Western conditions show that the average price in season for capons to be right around twenty cents per pound; in some instances as low as fifteen cents per pound, live weight. Farther West, where capons are better known, the price was much better.

It is not a question of how much you can get for the capon; the point is you cannot afford to be without capons, even though you never intend to sell one. One capon will more than pay for a set of tools that will last forever. As a source of food supply they cannot be ignored. With a good set of instruments in your possession you at once have unlimited access to the greatest table delicacy obtainable in ancient or modern times, a so-called luxury that was out of the reach of the poor man and not always obtainable by the rich. Modern down-to-date invention, together

with a little "gumption" on the part of the consumer, has placed this dish within the reach of all. As a source of profit no other part of the poultry business offers so great a return as capons. It is safe to figure that they will always bring twice as much per pound as hens. They will average about twice as heavy, just as the finished steer will outweigh and outsell the cow.

As a means of recreation, "caponizing" presents a subject full of interest and running over with possibilities. Bankers, teachers, clerks and



This photo shows a Barred Rock cockerel "just right to caponize."

business men in all lines of work get great enjoyment from a few capons. The operation is very interesting, requiring a certain amount of skill, but it is soon learned and easily performed. After the operation comes the pleasure of watching the capons grow and develop. Later there is the pleasure of feasting on their sweet juicy flesh. In addition there is the satisfying knowledge that the bird is pure and wholesome, and in the proper condition.

Children especially take great interest in the operation and in watching the birds develop. Boys or girls of over ten years of age are quick to get the hang of the operation and soon become expert at it. Note the

picture of little ten-year-old Helen Beuoy. Helen learned the operation herself, practicing first on a dead bird, one that had just been killed to eat. During the season just passed Helen worked on many birds, and quit the season without the loss of a single one. The picture is from an actual photo without retouching in any way, and was taken by Ocie Sartin while Helen was operating on a live bird. At the time the picture was taken Helen was only ten years old.



**IF A CHILD CAN DO IT, SO CAN YOU.**

Little Helen Beuoy, Cedar Vale, Kansas, making a capon. At the time this picture was taken Helen was only ten years old. This little girl makes spending money by working birds for the neighbors. She gets ten cents for each capon she makes. It is easy for her to operate on fifty birds in one afternoon.

There are several good reasons why capons bring such high prices, the principal one being that capons hit the market at a time when all other poultry is very scarce and hard to get at any price. A capon gets his growth usually during February or March and is ready for the market at that time. That is too early in the season for young chicks or broilers

and those who have wintered a bunch of hens do not care to sell at this time because the hens are laying their best and eggs are at the top price at this season. There are no grass cattle on the market, which means that beef, pork and all kinds of meat, in fact, is not only scarce and high but in many instances cannot be had at all. The capon is at his best at this time and comes in at exactly the proper time to fill a longfelt want and to supply the market with the best possible quality of meat.

At least half the chickens hatched each year are male birds. Early hatched birds are of course the most profitable. As this is a well known fact, the result is that the bulk of the chicken crop is hatched during March, April and May. This means that the young males, or at least half of all the chickens raised, will be ready for market at or about the same time.



Hooks and cords for fastening the fowl during the operation. The hooks are for fastening the cords about the fowl's legs and wings and save tying a knot each time.

Under old methods this half of the poultry crop of this country would reach the market as frying chickens or broilers and all in a bunch, or nearly so. Under the best conditions they would all come onto the market within ninety days and during the hottest time of the season. This means that the market would become glutted and no demand. The price would have to sink to its lowest ebb and the birds sold for less than it cost to raise them.

Modern conditions demand modern methods, and it is only by caponizing the young males that this valuable source of wholesome food can be conserved and distributed over the entire year instead of being rushed to the market in a bunch.

Five or six years ago we began to caponize all of our surplus male birds and since then the capons have been the most profitable part of our poultry business. As a matter of fact up to that time we had lost money on the male half of our flock; now they make us more profit than the hens or pullets. We sell them right on the market and what we have done and are still doing, any farmer or poultry raiser can do equally as well.



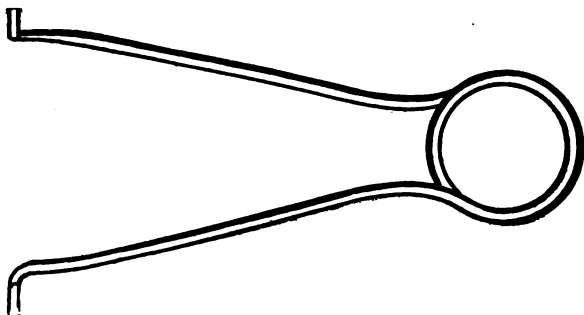
Operating knife for separating the ribs and removing the testicles. Also an excellent knife for killing all kinds of poultry for market.

It will be only a very short time until capons will be found on every farm in the country; the signs of the times point that way and the issue cannot be dodged. Capons are bound to come. Conditions demand that the male bird be caponized in order to protect the egg crop, if for no other reason. We are told, and most of us know it to be a fact, that unfertilized eggs can be kept in a perfectly fresh condition for many months. It is also an established fact that unfertilized eggs will sell for double the price of eggs that are fertilized. The problem with the farmer who produces the bulk of the egg crop has been to find a practical way of disposing of the males. Forced on the market during the hot months they were sure to produce a loss. Under the old method, it was almost impossible for the average farmer to make capons with any degree of success. Necessity, as usual, is the mother of invention and these new conditions demanded a modern way of making capons, one that would be safe, sure and effective. I have met all these conditions in the Capon Tools invented and patented by me some two years ago. I have been using a set of these



tools ever since they were first invented, caponizing several hundred birds each year with the very best success. I have a little boy only seven years old who can do the work just as well and almost as fast as myself. There is scarcely any danger from the operation if the proper instruments are used. Best results can be secured if the birds are worked on when quite small. In the American breeds when they are about like quails in size and appearance is the best time. In the small breeds, like Leghorns, they will have to be worked even smaller than that on account of the fact that birds of small breeds develop much faster sexually than the larger breeds. The idea is to get them just before the comb and wattles begin to grow or redden.

It is much easier and faster to do this work on poultry than it is to perform a similar operation on any other kind of stock or animal. The danger to the fowl is not so great and the bird will recover from the operation much quicker than a pig or calf. With a little practice any one can soon learn to make thirty or forty capons in an hour. As a starter it is best to practice on a dead bird. Commence on one that you have just killed to eat, work on one or two in that way and you will become accustomed to the instruments and will get the parts to be removed fixed in your mind. You will then be anxious to try on a live bird and can proceed with confidence and success. It pays to take plenty of time at the start and go slowly on the first few. In case one should be killed it would just bleed to death and would die much quicker than if its head were cut off in the usual way and of course would be just as good to eat.



Common spring spreader. Adjusted to spread birds of one pound and a half to two pounds in weight. Can be regulated as to strength by bending the arms of the spring to suit.

Capons are profit makers and they bring in the cash at a time of the year when we need it most. Usually February and March are dull months on the farm. Have a flock of capons and cash in at this time. It helps.

I remember my first bunch of capons and the nice profit they made me. It was some five or six years ago. Along in July we found that we had a few over a hundred young cockerels that we must dispose of. Inquiries as to market price developed the fact that we could not get over twenty cents a piece for them or a total of twenty dollars for the hundred birds. I had not at that time had any experience with capons. In fact, I had never even seen the operation performed, but I secured a set of the best instruments I could find and started in on them. At first it was a bit awkward, but a little practice and I was all right. We fattened that bunch of capons, sold them on the market in the latter part of February, shipping them to Kansas City and selling live weight on the market. As I remember it we received twenty-one cents per pound for them and they weighed a trifle over ten pounds each on the average, which made the hundred capons bring something over two hundred dollars. A gross profit of one hundred and eighty dollars more than they would have brought sold as cockerels. A net profit of at least one dollar each.

Usually capons will bring about double the price of hens per pound. It costs about the same to raise a capon as a hen. The capon will weigh

at least twice as much and as he sells higher per pound a good capon will bring about the same amount of money as four hens of the same breed.

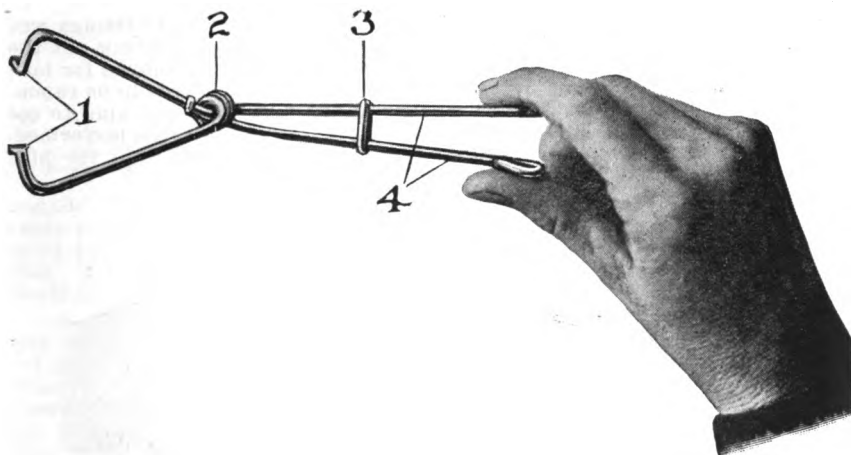
Aside from the capon's value as a strictly money making farm issue he has other qualities that should commend him to your attention. Capons make fine mothers for the newly hatched chicks. In connection with an incubator they are the best means of raising little chicks that we have ever tried. You understand of course that "capons do not lay eggs," and it is no use to write me for "capon eggs." But they do love to look after a bunch of little chicks. They will hover them and cluck to them exactly like a mother hen and in most cases are better with the little fellows than the best of hens. It is no trouble to teach them to do this, they just naturally take to little chicks, like a small boy to a mud hole. A few years ago capons were scarcely known in this section, now they are becoming quite common. Following my success with capons on the market I was requested to give a lecture and demonstration at our Agricultural College at Manhattan in connection with the annual field meeting of the Kansas State Poultry Federation. This feature was so much of a success and so much interest and enthusiasm was shown that I was engaged by the Missouri State Poultry Board last summer to attend a series of field meetings in that state and lecture and demonstrate the art of caponizing. I was in Missouri some two weeks and gave lectures at nine towns in the principal poultry sections, including one day at their State Poultry Experiment Station at Mountain Grove. The trip was under the management and guidance of T. E. Quisenberry, director of the Missouri State Poultry Station, and everywhere we met with the greatest interest by crowds which varied from two to five thousand people. I have also within the last few months given lectures and demonstrations in many Kansas towns and a few in Oklahoma, in many instances at the expense and request of the Farmers' Institutes, and I can say to you that the farmer who does not caponize his male birds the coming season is entirely behind the times and will lose a nice profit to which he is fully entitled and should have. That farmers in Missouri are awake to the possibilities of capons, is proven, I think, by the fact that they have insisted that demonstrations and lectures on capons be included at all field meetings in that state this season.

Make a few capons this season, even if you don't intend to sell one. Make a few for your own use, it will pay big just for that alone.

I do a lot of lecture and demonstration work on this subject, not because I want to, but because I cannot get out of it and do my duty to the industry. Honestly, I don't believe it helps the beginner to have some one show him or her how to caponize. I believe you can learn better and quicker by commencing on a dead bird as stated above and learning by yourself. Too much advice is bad dope—just get out by yourself without any one to bother and you will be surprised how easy and simple it really is.

# PREPARING TO CAPONIZE

The first thing necessary, of course, is a bird of the right degree of development and in the proper condition. The right stage of development is as important as the condition, and either of these two points not correct will cause a large per cent of failures. Many people ask how old the birds should be, or how much they should weigh, when they are right to caponize. How old they should be or how large they are is "wide of the mark," what they really should know is the proper state of development. This stage of the bird's growth is hard to explain so that all will understand it alike. Different breeds and different flocks of the same breed vary as to the time and manner of their development. No set rules can be given that would be just right in every instance. The proper time to caponize is "just before the bird reaches the sexual maturity." Generally speaking, when the birds reach one pound and a half to two pounds in weight. Leghorns and all small breeds should be worked on smaller even than that, as they develop the generative organs much sooner than the larger breeds. All fowls of early spring hatches develop sexually much sooner than those of summer or fall hatches. For that reason the early hatched ones cannot be let run so long as the later hatched birds. It always sounds "bad" to try to explain the proper time to caponize on paper, yet a very little practice will show you when they are just right. Once you get the right idea, it will be easy to tell the ones that are "just right" by the looks of the fowl. The main thing is to start, "get at it," the rest will come to you all right. A little practice and you are an expert. You will find the ones that are just right in a variety of different sizes and ages. The essential requirement is to have the testicle and its attachments in just the right state of development.



Humane spreader. This picture shows the tool open. You have plenty of room to work between the arm marked No. 1. The compound spring hinge, marked No. 2, closes the spreader automatically and presents a yielding force that is humane in its action.

These organs should be just about the size of a common navy bean; in no case larger, and slightly smaller preferred. After you are in practice, the work may be done where the testicles are no larger than plump grains of wheat. They should be about the same shape and color as a nice bright plump grain of soft winter wheat. The expert will get the best possible results where the organs are in the stage of development. The organs should be a little larger for the beginner as they can be seen to better advantage. With old-fashioned, clumsy tools, it was, of course, impossible to do the work where the organs were so small. There was not

room enough inside the bird to use the old tools. With the modern automatic tools, it is possible and much better to operate on small birds.

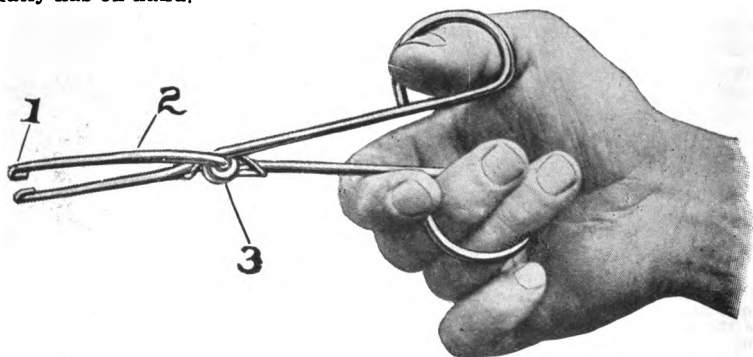
### WHAT IS A "SLIP"?

Not having the bird "just right" has caused many failures. I should say that there is about three weeks in the life of each male bird when he is just right to caponize. Before that period he is too small, and afterward, too much developed. Of course, it is understood that the operation can be and is performed on birds of all sizes and ages with success, in so far as the operation is concerned. A fowl that is fully developed, sexually, at the time he is caponized, never becomes a capon. He is simply a "stag," the same as where a bull or a boar is operated on. He will only sell as a "stag." A bird of this kind is called a "slip." In reality he is a "stag" or proud male. After a cockerel begins to crow and his head and comb reddens he is too far advanced to ever make a capon. They must be worked on before they get that far along, if good results are to be expected.

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Combination hook and probe. The sharp hook end is for making the opening in the tissue covering the intestines so that the testicles may be plainly seen. The flat probe end is for pushing the intestines back in case it is necessary so as to have a clear view of the work to be done. This is a mighty handy instrument to use in dressing any kind of a wound. Cotton may be wrapped about the hook end for wiping up blood or for cleaning an old sore. Farmers will find this instrument especially useful in removing screw worms from barb wire cuts.

Next to having the birds in the right stage of development comes the condition. It is possible for the expert to operate on them in most any kind of condition. Yet it is very poor judgment for him to attempt it unless they are right. The birds should be growing and in a thriving state of health. As the organs to be removed are inside the birds, it will be easy to understand that if the bird is full of feed, his inside fixings will be puffed up and expanded, taking up all the room and shutting out the light so that the organ to be removed cannot be found or removed for lack of room. For this reason, "it is very important" that the birds to be caponized be confined to a small yard or coop and not allowed anything to eat for at least thirty-six hours, just before the operation is to be performed. It takes nature about that long to exhaust the food supply that the bird usually has on hand.



Beuoy's New Model Remover, open ready for business. The compound spring hinge shuts the tool automatically and holds it securely closed. The loops, marked No. 1, and the arms, marked No. 2, are exactly the same as on the Automatic Remover and are covered by the same patents. The two removers are used much the same, the New Model, however, opens and closes like a pair of scissors or forceps, and is preferred by some for that reason. It has no advantage over the Automatic Remover.

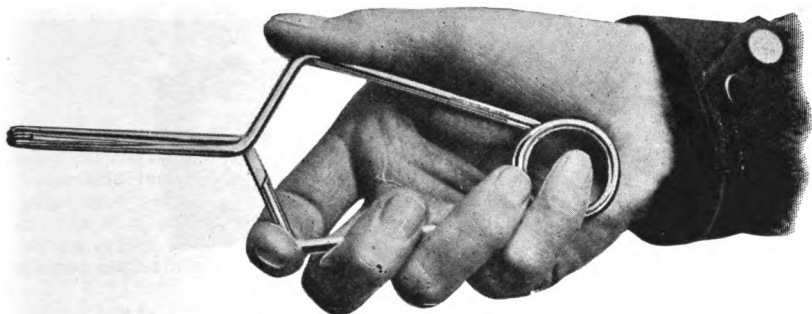
Be sure they do not have anything to eat or drink. For the beginner a good light is necessary, right out in the sun will be best. You can see the inner works of the birds to perfection. The testicles occupy about the same position in a bird that the kidneys do in a hog or rabbit. There is



no danger of getting the wrong organs, as the testicles are the only yellow colored objects you see in the bird. If the bird is in good health the testicles will be yellow and shaped like a grain of wheat, or slightly longer; the other parts of the bird are red, or nearly so. The testicles are always yellow or whitish yellow except in a deceased bird, when they sometimes become black or partly so.

### THE PROPER TOOLS

After you have the birds just right, comes the tools. Success will depend on their construction and working principles as much as on the bird and its condition. With the proper tools and the birds right, any one can make a capon. Tools that work with a hair fine wire or that are constructed on the split-scoop principle and the ones that have clipping attachments are no good. A large per cent of loss by death and slips may be expected where they are used. The reason for this loss is clear, when it is understood that tools of the above character must come in actual contact with the testicle itself before the tool can be manipulated in an effective



The latest remover. The business end of the remover consists of two loops, the lips of which are beveled outward like a dove's tail and fitted together like a split hair. The outward bevel prevents it grasping parts that are not wanted and the fine adjusted grip holds the parts to be removed absolutely secure.

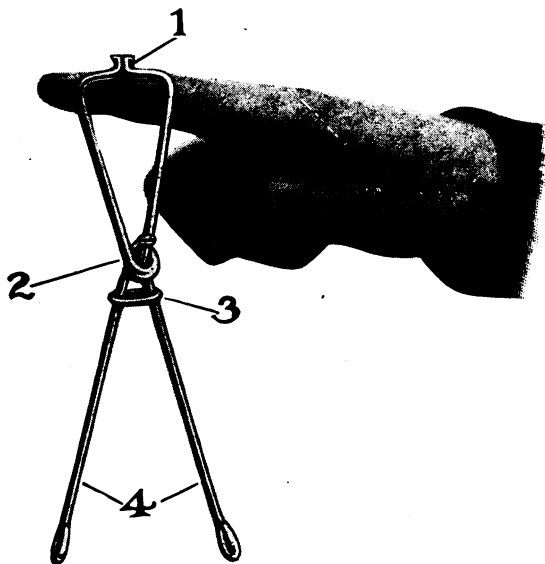
manner. This being the case, it, of course, follows that the testicle attachments must be severed right up against that organ. In many instances a small part of the testicle is left in the bird, resulting in a "slip" every time. Where that style of tools are used the cord membranes and attachments are all left in the bird. And these are very apt to produce a "slip."

A real successful testicle remover must be so constructed that it will open up wide enough to pass entirely over the testicle and grasp the cords and membranes that hold it in place. The tool must then retain that grasp without letting the slightest particle escape. As the testicle lies very close to the spermatic artery and is sometimes attached to it, any one will understand, "That any clipping contrivance with a sharp cutting edge" is apt to sever this artery, resulting in the death of the bird. The successful remover must be beveled outward like a dove's tail and fit at the connecting edges like a split hair. This will permit the grasping members being worked down between the spermatic artery and testicle without danger of injuring either.

The instrument then has a grasp on the connecting cords and membranes with the testicle inside its loop. So the cords and attachments may be gradually stretched out away from the artery and the bird's back, and cut off with a thin, sharp, narrow bladed knife. Handled in this way there is no danger of killing the bird. It does not seem to hurt them in the least at this time, and as the tool is turned over several times before cutting, the cords are twisted together like a string, thus stopping the blood, and the bird will not bleed at all if the operation is properly performed.

The cords, membranes and attachments are all taken out with the removers, as well as the testicles, so there cannot be any "slips" develop, because the operation is a clean one.

Next in importance to the testicle remover, comes the spreader, used for holding the ribs apart while the operation is performed. Almost any kind of spreader can be used with fair success. The most common kind in use heretofore is the ordinary spring spreader. It is made of spring wire and sells for twenty-five cents, or same can be made from an old piece of bed-spring. The trouble with this kind of spreader is that no two birds will present the same amount of resistance. The spring may be strong enough to break the ribs of one bird and not strong enough to open the next one. There is no way to regulate it. It is hard to insert into the bird and will not stay in place without some one to hold it. However, it can be used successfully, and has been for many years. Principally on account of its cheapness and the lack of anything better, the "Humane Spreader," one of the best things we have seen in the way of a spreader was invented.



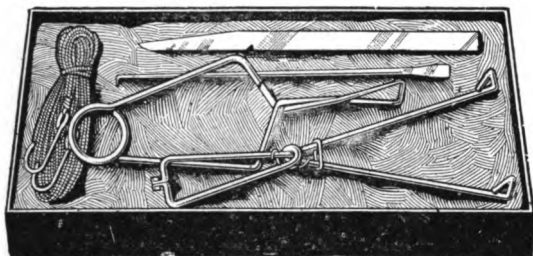
Humane Spreader. This is the instrument used to spread the last two ribs apart so that you can see to do the work. The flanges, marked No. 1, are inserted between the ribs, and the handles, marked No. 4, brought together. The link, marked No. 3, drops back by gravity and holds them spread at any desired width. The hinge, marked No. 2, fits up into the bird's flank and holds the tool steady.

The "Humane Spreader" is constructed to fit the bird's body. It is used from the same side that the operator works on. The coil spring hinge fits up in the bird's thigh, the handles resting on the operating table, thus holding it firmly in position. The spreader closes automatically, making it easy to insert between the ribs. To spread the cut, press the handles together with the thumb and fore-finger, the slide drops back by gravity as the two handles come together, holding the tool spread at any desired width, only pressure enough being used to open the ribs just right, so no unnecessary pain is caused the bird. A coil spring spreader keeps up a steady pressure on the bird all the time, resulting in much pain.

We like this spreader much the best of any we have ever used. It is very convenient, affords plenty of room to work, and has no complicated parts to get out of order. We have tried other spreaders, and most of them work all right, but we believe the "Humane Spreader" presents many advantages not found in any other spreader. The spreader is the tool that gives you the view of the work to be performed and, therefore, it is

desirable that a good one be used. None of them are expensive, and we suggest that you use the best.

Aside from the testicle remover and spreader, the rest of the equipment is not so important. It will be necessary to have some kind of knife. It should have a small blade that will hold a thin sharp edge. You will have to have a tearing hook and probe. We like them combined, probe on one end and hook on the other. The hook is for tearing the thin membrane or tissue that covers the intestines and obstructs the view when the bird is first opened up with the spreaders. The tissue is too thin to be cut and must be torn; it is about like wet tissue paper. The probe is not used much, but once in a while it will come in handy to press the intestines back with, in case they are a little too full and obstruct the view.



A complete set of capon tools.

Some sort of operating table and means of fastening the birds will also be required. An empty barrel turned bottom side up makes a good table and is the right height. A brick broken in two and each half tied to a cord about three feet long, with a hook attached to the free end, makes a good way to fasten the bird. The hooks are to pass over the string when it is wound around the bird's legs or wings and save tying a knot each time.



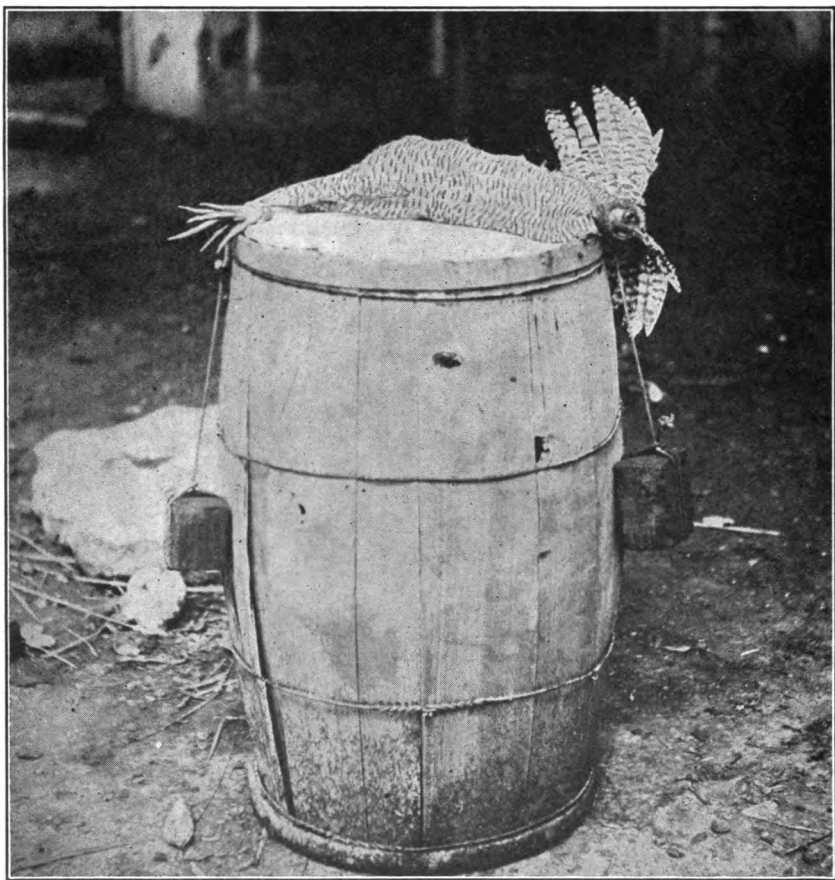
"PETE AND REPEAT."  
Big Enough to Use for Pet Horses.

## THE OPERATION.

Turn an empty barrel bottom side up to use for an operating table. It is the right height and can't be beat for the purpose. Secure two pieces of cord about three feet long with a hook in one end of each.

Tie a half brick to the other end of each cord and you are ready to proceed. Place the cockerel on the top of the barrel right side up. Wrap one of the cords twice around his legs and fasten with the hook. Wrap the other cord around his wings at second joint and fasten same as the other one, stretch him out on top of the barrel as far as possible, letting the weights hang down on each side of the barrel as shown in the cut.

Now pluck a few feathers from just in front of the hip joint. (These are just ready to moult, anyway, and will come out easily.) Stand on the front side of the bird so that the breast is toward you. Locate the

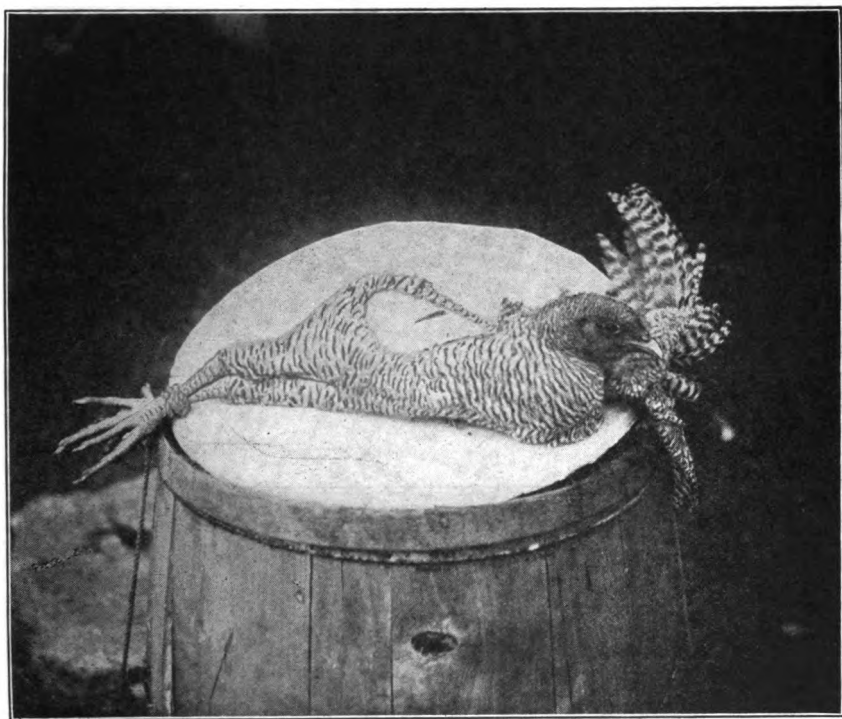


Position on barrel, properly fastened for the operation

last two ribs with the forefinger of the right hand and place the small blade of a sharp knife between them (see cut.) Hold it there with a firm, steady pressure, draw it forward, pressing down hard all the time. Be sure the blade passes through, entirely separating the ribs when it first starts to move at that point. Then make the cut about one inch long.

(See the illustration.) The idea is to separate the ribs without cutting any muscles and if the blade passes entirely through at the first attempt this will be accomplished and no bleeding will follow. It will be necessary to press down very hard on the knife as that is important. The pressure separates the ribs without cutting the muscles, thereby preventing any blood from flowing.

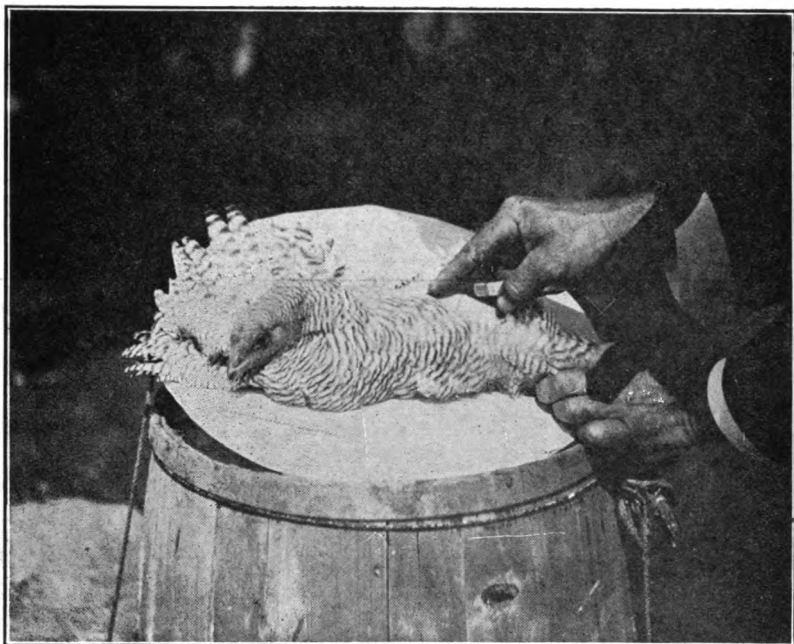
The cut made, insert the spreader and open the wound so that you can see to work. (See cut showing spreader in position.) The first thing that you will see is a thin skin or membrane covering the intestines. With the tearing hook make a small opening in this, which will bring the upper testicle into view, a small yellowish object about the size of a navy



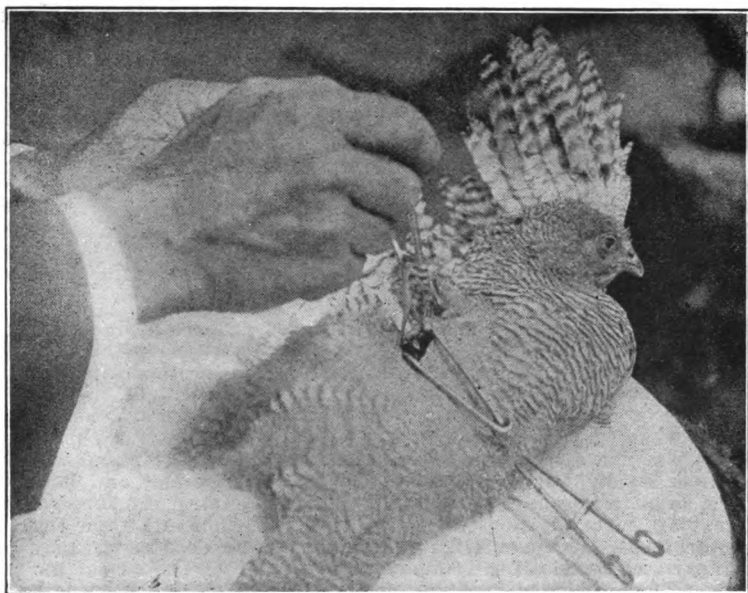
Make the cut one inch long. If any blood should appear, pause a moment and wipe it with a bit of cotton.

bean, lying up against the back bone, or nearly so, with a blue artery just back of it and sometimes attached to it. Care must be taken not to cut or tear this artery, or the bird is a dead one. Insert the testicle remover with the loops held tightly together, pushing the intestines back and out of the way when necessary with them. You will be able to see through the loops when you have them in the right place. Open the instrument and work the loops over the testicle, allowing it to shut gradually with the testicle inside the loops. Turn the tool half round, and back once or twice, so as to loosen the organ as much as possible. Be sure you have the grasping parts of the tool in the right position and then twist the testicle around a few times (like you would twist a cord or string), drawing the parts outward all the time so as to stretch the cords out for about an inch. Then reach in with the small knife blade and cut the twisted cords and membranes off about half way between the testicle and where they attach to the bird. (See illustration, "Cutting the Testicle Off.") Re-



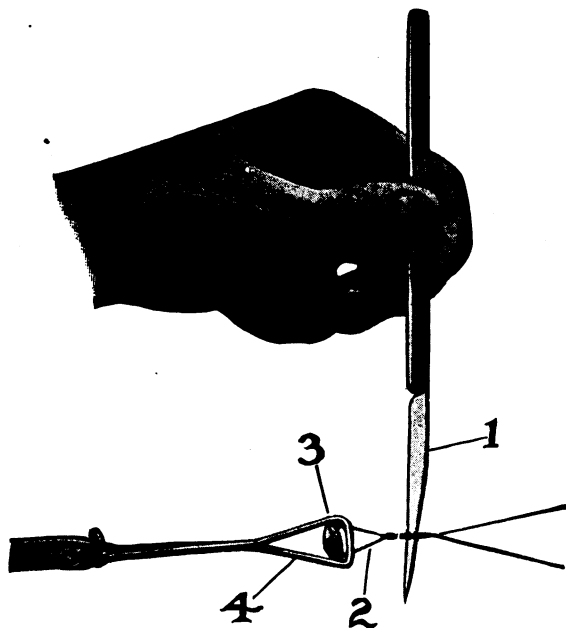


**Making the cut. Press down hard. Be sure the knife goes through between the ribs.**



**Cutting the testicle off. Note the point of the knife under the organ. From a natural photograph.**

move the spreader, turn the bird over and repeat the operation on the other side, proceeding as before. It is possible to get both testicles from the same side, but it is harder and much more dangerous to do; and the bird recovers just as quickly where it is opened up on both sides. Do not sew up the cut. When the capon gets on his feet the cut in the skin will be up under his wing and not over the ribs at all. (See illustrations on other pages of a dead bird, showing muscles.)



The business end of the removers. No. 4 shows the loops and safety clutch, with testicle (No 3) held firmly within its grasp. No. 2 represents the cords and attachments and No. 1 shows our thin bladed knife cutting the cords in the proper place and manner. You will note that the organ was first secured in the loops marked No. 4 and then the remover was turned round and round, so as to twist the cords as shown. The knife used to make the cut only.

# CARE AFTER THE OPERATION

## WIND PUFFS.

The birds will be ready for feed as soon as turned loose after the operation, but they should be watered first. Feed lightly of whatever they are accustomed to. Be sure to separate them so that not over eight or ten will go to roost in any one box or coop, as where there is a larger number together they will crowd and some will smother. After the second night following the operation they will be all right and may then be safely turned together. In three to four days after the operation some

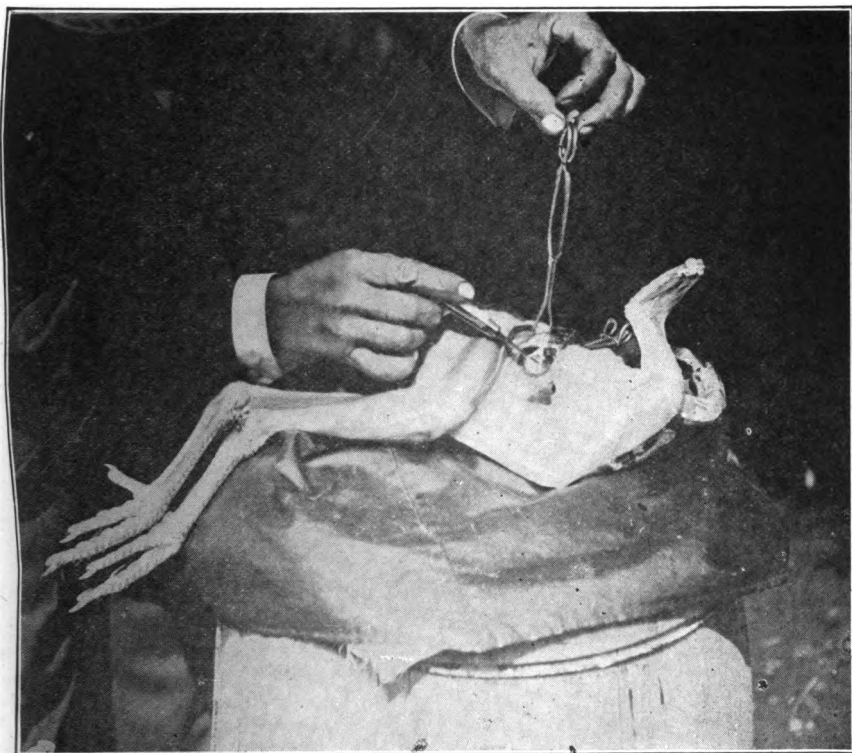


These three pictures are from photos of the same bird, dressed and skinned in order to show the muscles as they actually are. Note the first picture shows the bird stretched out and the incision made between the last two ribs. No muscles are cut. Simply a thin membrane.

of the capons may develop wind puffs. This is caused by the cut healing too fast. It is not serious, simply air or wind under the skin. The remedy is to make an opening in the skin so as to let it escape. A pin or needle will not make a large enough opening; it is best to use a pair of scissors and cut out a small pinch of skin. This is just the outer skin of the bird and is void of feeling, so it does not cause the fowl any suffering. This will not be necessary in very many birds, but once in a while it will occur, more often in birds where the operation is performed from one side only. We have been told by physicians that the tools and knife should be kept in a pan containing a weak disinfecting solution while

the operation was being performed and that if this were done wind puffs could often be avoided. We cannot vouch for this, but it will do no harm and is worthy of trial.

In three or four days after the operation the capons may be allowed the free run of the place. They are great rustlers, more like a hen in actions and appearance than anything else. Yet they are different from all other feathered creatures, taking on fat in surprising amounts in pro-



This shows the two ribs spread apart to bring the testicle in plain view so that the remover may be placed around it. The removers are then twisted around two or three times and the testicle then gently lifted toward the surface. The knife is then placed beneath the testicle to sever the cords.

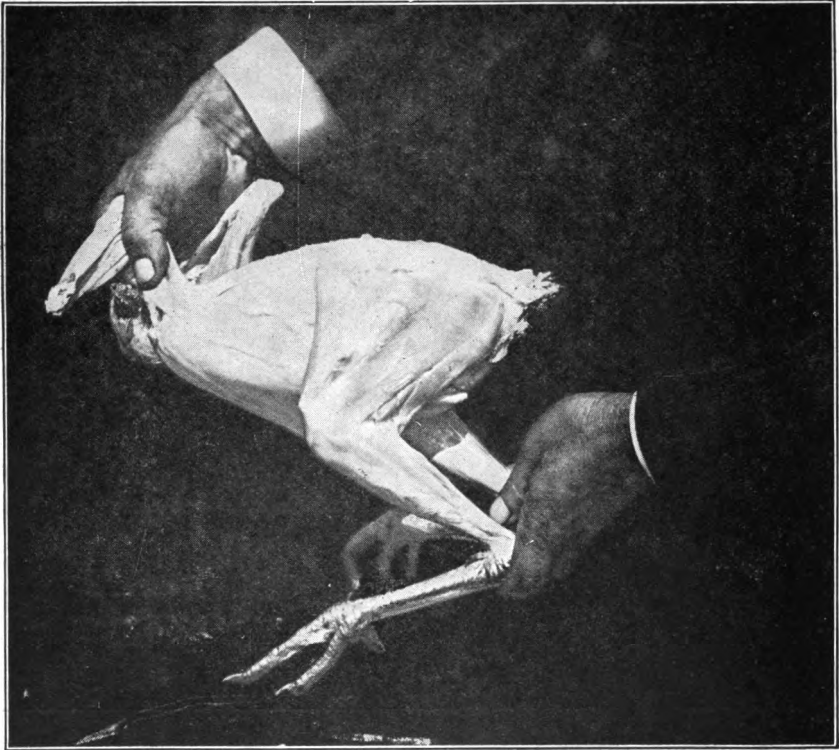
portion to the feed consumed. They will begin to fatten and their bodies apparently drop lower down and show that they are capons when about six months old. The American breeds will, if crowded along, weigh from ten to fifteen pounds when they are ten months of age. The operation may be performed at any time in any month of the year providing birds can be found that are "right" for the operation.

We usually caponize the late fall chickens to use for foster mothers to take care of the early spring hatched chicks. Each winter we carry over about thirty to be used for that purpose. These fellows will then make fifteen pound capons for the following holiday season. They will command the very top prices, as the more they weigh, the more they are worth per pound.

### PROPER FEED FOR CAPONS.

Feed the same as other poultry. They will do better, of course, on free range, but this is not essential. They are not subject to disease like other poultry, hence stand confinement well. Plenty of green feed is a big help. It makes them thrifty. For this purpose sowed oats, wheat or rye is best, but alfalfa is just about as good. Sprouted oats are excellent.

The main feed, however, should be corn—good yellow corn—all they can be induced to eat all the time. That is the proper way to feed it to capons for profit. Feed the other things mentioned in order to whet



The above illustration is the same bird after the operation has been performed and his thighs are brought back to their natural position. This shows that the incision is entirely covered and protected by the thigh.

their appetites so they will eat more corn. Alfalfa meal wet with milk, either sour or sweet, is one of the best growing feeds we have ever tried. The last two weeks before marketing or butchering, confine them to a small yard and feed corn chop soaked in milk. Feed about four times a day, all that they can be coaxed to clean up good. This method will plump out the carcass and give that rich flavor and tenderness so much in demand.

# THE MARKETING OF CAPONS

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Dealers will tell you that capons are in season or out of season, depending on the time of year that the inquiry is made. Capons, like strawberries, are good at any time of the year that you can get them. It takes capons from nine months to a year to mature. As chickens and other fowls are mostly hatched in the spring months, they will mature or get ripe during February, March and April, depending on the time that they were hatched. As there is no profit in holding them over during the summer months, or after they have become fully matured, it as a matter of course follows that they must be marketed during these three months; hence the so-called season. As incubators come into more general use and chicks are hatched at all seasons of the year, it may be possible to secure capons at all times. In selling capons on the open market to local produce dealers, if the best prices are expected the seller must be able to furnish enough capons at one time and properly finished to at least fill one crate. Any fair minded person can readily see that a dealer can not handle one or two capons so as to make a profit, as they do not sell well in mixed lots, generally going at hen prices. If you are growing them and expect to sell on the open market, always arrange to have at least two dozen to market together. The more you have the better prices you will be able to obtain. Dealers will bid much higher where there are enough birds to make it interesting.

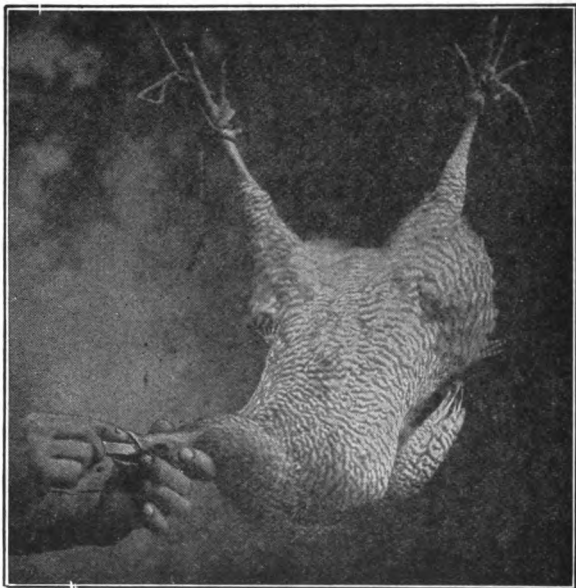
Where several neighbors can arrange to club together and have their capons ready at the same time and all sell together much better prices can be realized. Small capons do not sell well, as they must possess size in order to show that they are real capons. The little ones look too much like small roosters. To bring top prices capons should weigh over eight pounds each. In this respect they are no different from other animals, as it is pretty well understood that runty, undersized steers or hogs do not command the best prices. Quality counts in capons as well as in all other animals. Pure bred fowls show up their quality and run much more even in all market requirements than common or mixed breeds, therefore it is desirable to use Standard or pure bred fowls for capons. Chickens and ducks make the best capons for profit. Turkeys and geese may be worked on, but have to be kept about two years to become fully matured, therefore are not so popular for caponizing. Barred Plymouth Rock chickens are perhaps the best for making capons. Their long back gives plenty of room to do the work. Their large size, yellow skin and legs, together with their quick growing qualities, makes them very desirable as capons. The fact that they are great winter layers makes it possible to get fertile eggs to incubate very early in the season. The greatest point in favor of Barred Rocks for capons is due to the fact that you can tell the males much sooner than in any other breed of fowls. In Barred Rocks the males can be told very often as soon as hatched, as they are always much lighter in color than the females. In some breeds of chickens, especially the solid colored birds, it is very hard to tell the males soon enough to make good capons. Outside of the facts mentioned any breed of fowls will make good capons.

Leghorns and the small breeds make good capon mothers and furnish capons with that gamey flavor so much favored by certain classes. It is well to remember that it will pay to raise a few capons whether you ever sell one or not. You cannot afford to be without them for your own use. The fact that they bring twice as much as any other class of poultry need not be considered. The point is they are the beast eating on earth. Everyone who has chickens at all should have some capons, especially when you can have them without any extra expense. One capon will more than pay for the tools to perform the operation. Dressed capons bring the highest prices. In dressing, it must be done in a way to show that it is a capon; otherwise, the purchaser could not tell for sure what it was and he might think it only a rooster. In order that there be no mistake on



this point, custom and fashion long established has laid down certain rules that must be followed in dressing capons for the market.

One requirement is that the capons arrive in as nearly whole condition as possible. It is desirable that they be drawn; in fact, some state laws require it. In order to draw a fowl without mutilating the carcass, it is necessary that the bird not be allowed anything to eat for at least



This shows the position in which the bird's head and the knife is held when the killing is done.

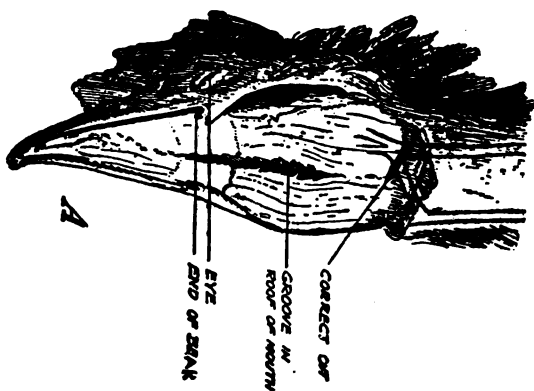
twenty-four hours before it is killed. Confined for that length of time without anything to eat the crop and intestines will become entirely empty. This makes these organs much smaller in size, as well as toughening them, thus permitting them to be taken out with ease.

A capon's comb and wattles never grow after the operation and the real capon always has a pale look about the head, only the "slips" will redden up. In the real capon the head remains very small. The spur on a capon will develop slowly unless removed, the same as the horns on a steer. They will not get so large as the entire male's, but they will grow some just the same. For these reasons, the real capon must always have the head left on, together with a few neck feathers. That is his trade mark, so to speak. On a capon the tail feathers and coverlets are very long and abundant, and for that reason they must be left on. And just to give the carcass a finished look the feathers on the two outer joints of the wings are also left. The feet are left on and in some places where the market requires it a ring of feathers are left around each leg just about the knee joint.

Always dry pick your capon. Do not scald, as this would spoil the keeping qualities of the bird; besides, it would ruin the feathers. Capon feathers are valuable. They will more than pay for the dressing. They sell next to duck and geese feathers. All of the coarse hard feathers are left on the bird, only the soft downy ones being plucked.

As it is necessary for the capon head to remain on the carcass the only practical way to kill him is to stick him inside the mouth. As there are two veins that join under the skin in the back part of the mouth this is easily done, and much more humane than chopping their heads off anyway. The small blade of an ordinary pocket knife will be all that is re-

quired. (See cut for proper way to do it.) To make the stick, hang the capon up by his feet, as he will bleed much quicker and cleaner in this position and be ready to pick as soon as properly stuck. Reach the blade of the knife well back in his mouth, sharp edge up, and sever the veins as shown in the illustration. Then stick the point of the knife through the roof of the bird's mouth, so that the point will enter the brain. This will



The proper way to make the stick. The drawing shows where to find the arteries to cut.

cause him to lose all feeling and will cause the feathers to loosen. After he is properly stuck you can pluck the feathers with ease; they will almost come out of their own accord after you learn to make the stick just right. It is a good scheme to have a small weight attached to a small hook to hang in his lower bill while picking. This will hold him still and prevent

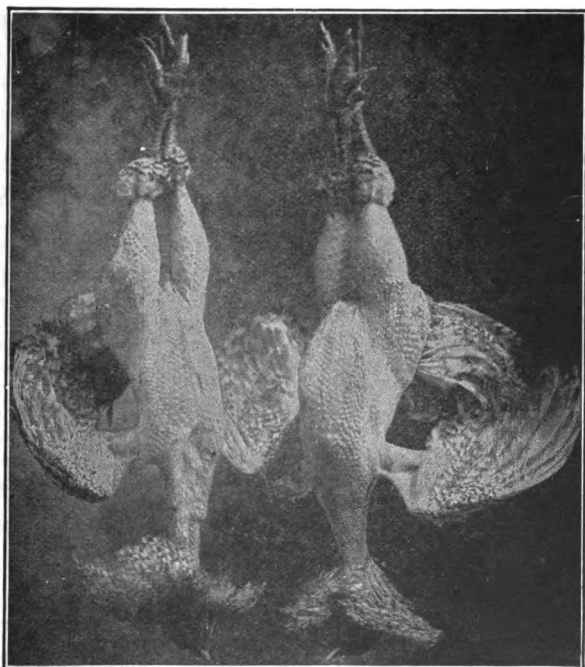


Photo by Deering. Just finished. Properly dressed. Weight twenty pounds, dressed ten pounds each. Worth twenty-five cents per pound, or five dollars for the pair.

swinging around. The bird properly plucked, all pin feathers and down having been removed, due care being taken not to tear or bruise the skin, the bird is ready to draw. It is best to have a table handy for this purpose. Lay the carcass on its back and cut around the vent. A great deal of fat will be found at this point, attached to the intestines; as you pull them out push the fat back into the bird. This fat will "bug out" at the opening when the bird is finished and give it a very rich, tempting appearance. When the end of the intestines is reached run the thumb and forefinger up inside the bird as far as possible and break them off, leaving everything else inside the bird. The crop is perfectly empty and clean, hence it is left in, as it could not be removed without spoiling the looks of the carcass. Now wash him thoroughly, being sure to get the feet and head clean. Sponge the breast very carefully. Hang up by the feet and allow to cool over night, then they will be ready to pack for shipment. Line a box or barrel with nice white paper and put the birds in breast down. If it is warm weather, put plenty of ice in top and bottom.

### FACTS ABOUT CAPONS.

Capons are the most profitable part of the chicken business. They are not subject to disease like other poultry. Sold on the open market, capons will average at least twice as much per pound as hens.

A capon will average about twice as heavy and bring twice as much per pound, therefore a capon will sell for just four times as much money as the ordinary hen. The cost to raise the capon is just the same as for the hen.

Remember, it will pay you to have a few capons just for your own use, whether you ever intend to sell one or not. Capons, fat and well finished will bring on the market from \$2.00 to \$3.00 each, sold one at a time or in bunches. Capons are always in demand. The supply of capons is never equal to market requirements.

### CAPON MARKET GUARANTEED.

We guarantee to furnish you a ready market at the top prices for any or all capons that you can furnish, fat and well finished. They will usually bring more, but it is safe to figure that they will sell for twice as much per pound as the average price of hens. Capons sold on the open market AVERAGE US THREE DOLLARS each. Only the best cockerels are kept for breeders. We must have as much for them as they would bring as capons.

The bigger the capon the more he will bring per pound. Early spring hatched chicks make the very best capons and bring the highest prices. Late summer and fall hatched chicks make the best capons to use as mothers for little chicks.

In caponizing the only loss worth considering will be from the "slips" that you make. There are never enough birds killed in operating to amount to anything, and if this should happen the bird is just as good to eat as if killed in any other way. Where the old style instruments were used fully half the birds worked would develop into "slips," no matter how expert the operator might be. With the new Automatic Capon Tools any one can make real capons every time.

These new tools have a safety clutch that prevents "slips."

A "SLIP" is a bird that has been operated on and a part of the organ or its attachment left inside the bird. Where this occurs Nature attempts to grow a new organ and a "slip" or staggy bird results. And, like a stag in other animals, he is docked or sold for less money on the market. With the tool illustrated on the previous pages you can see through the loops all the time and know what you are doing, therefore you get no "slips."

### **EASTERN CAPON BUYERS.**

The following list of reliable capon buyers is just a very few of the best selected from all parts of the country. There are hundreds of others, and no doubt one close to you. With this list you will have no trouble in finding a good market, no matter where you are located.

**ZELLERS & TAYLOR**, Bordertown, N. J., supply New York market.  
**BATCHELDER-SNYDER CO.**, Blackstone St., Boston, Mass.  
**WALTER A. TUTTLE**, Scott St., Buffalo, N. Y.  
**GEORGE OLIVER & CO.**, Produce, New York City, West Hampton Market, N. Y.  
**MYERS WELL & CO.**, Produce, Cleveland, Ohio.  
**PHILIP QUIGLEY**, Produce, 345 Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
**EDSON BROS. PRODUCE CO.**, Philadelphia, Pa.  
**F. W. WHEELER & CO.**, Produce, 93 Clinton St., Boston, Mass.  
**HAZLEGROVE & CO.**, 14 S. 13th St., Richmond, Va.  
**PENINSULAR PRODUCE CO.**, 23 Cedar St., Jacksonville, Fla.  
**TAMPA SANITARY POULTRY CO.**, Box 666, Tampa, Fla.  
**WALLIS & SCOTT**, Produce, Tampa, Fla.

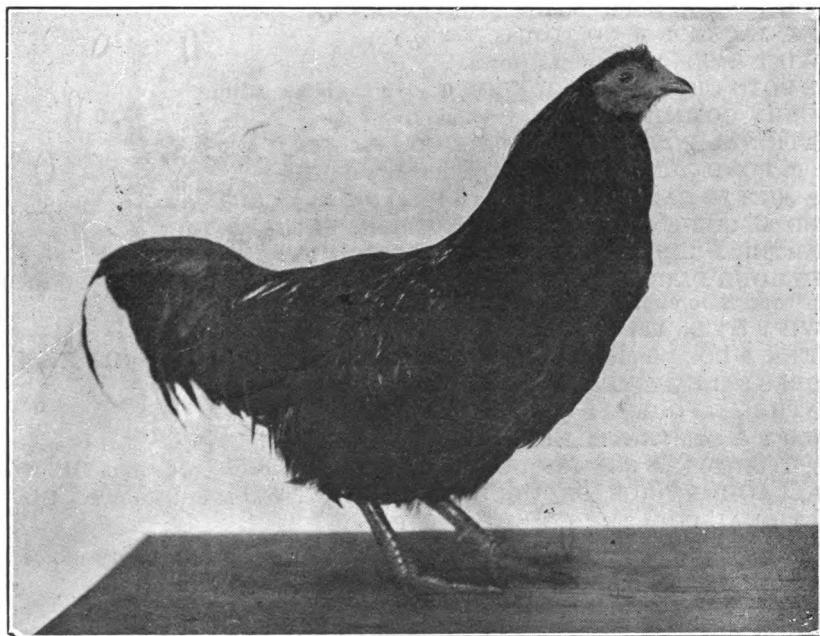
### **CAPON BUYERS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN STATES.**

**E. R. JAKUES & SON**, Produce, Home Office at Thornton, Ind. This firm also buys capons at Lebanon, LaFayette and Petersburg, Ind.  
**I. P. ALMERAS PRODUCE CO.**, 2415 Strand St., Galveston, Texas.  
**W. N. GUTHRIE WHOLESALE PRODUCE CO.**, Rogers, Tenn.  
**SWIFT & CO.**, Enid, Okla.  
**A. A. JACKSON & CO.**, Dallas, Texas. )  
**SWIFT & CO.**, Des Moines, Iowa.  
**DE SOTO CREAM & PRODUCE CO.**, Minneapolis, Minn.  
**PERRY COMMISSION CO.**, Omaha, Neb.  
**NATIONAL POULTRY PRODUCE CO.**, Falls City, Neb.  
**S. P. POND & CO.**, Produce, Keokuk, Iowa.  
**PAQUETTE CASH MARKET**, 520 Pearl St., Sioux City, Iowa.  
**GEO. L. COLLINS & CO.**, Produce, Detroit, Mich..  
**CARTER & LEHR PRODUCE CO.**, Detroit, Mich.  
**SEYMOUR PACKING CO.**, Topeka, Kan. This firm also buys at Winfield and Solomon, Kas.  
**SWIFT & CO.**, Parsons, Kas.  
**MEEK & CO.**, Wholesale Produce, Fourth and Monroe Sts., Topeka, Kas.  
**COPE'S SALE SYSTEM**, Box 155, Topeka, Kas.  
**NATIONAL POULTRY CO.**, Atchison, Kas.  
**SWIFT & CO.**, Wichita, Kas.  
**H. L. BROWN & SON PRODUCE CO.**, 219 S. Water St., Chicago, Ill.  
**GALLAGHER BROS. PRODUCE CO.**, 165 S. W. Water St., Chicago, Ill.  
**NATIONAL POULTRY CO.**, Atchison, Kas.  
**RICHARD BUTLER PRODUCE CO.**, Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.  
**J. R. PEDEN PRODUCE CO.**, Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.  
**A. W. BEAR & CO.**, Kansas City, Mo.  
**AARON BROS.**, Produce, Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.  
**KANSAS POULTRY PRODUCE CO.**, Kansas City, Mo., Stall 2, City Market.  
**EUREKA PRODUCE COMMISSION CO.**, St. Louis, Mo.

**F. W. BROCKMAN PRODUCE CO.,** St. Louis, Mo.  
**McLAIN & ALCOM PRODUCE CO.,** St. Louis, Mo.  
**MEMPHIS HOTEL CO.,** care Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.  
**CALANZANO BROS.,** Produce, 1822 Fourth St. Birmingham, Ala.  
**JOHN BONURA & CO.,** Front St., New Orleans, La.  
**BIRMINGHAM PRODUCE CO.,** Birmingham, Ala.  
**SAVANNAH PRODUCE CO.,** Savannah, Ga.  
**WILLIAM SCHMIDT,** Produce, Fort Worth, Texas.  
**MERCHANTS' PRODUCE CO.,** Dallas, Texas.

#### WESTERN CAPON BUYERS.

**PAGE & SON,** Produce, Portland, Ore.  
**CALIFORNIA POULTRY CO.,** The Stalls, 122 California Market, San Francisco Calif.  
**KEYSTONE POULTRY & EGG CO.,** 16 California, San Francisco, Calif.  
**H. L. GRIFFIN PRODUCE CO.,** Ogden, Utah.  
**THE PINKETT BROS. PRODUCE CO.,** 1625 Market St., Denver, Colo.  
**THE RHODES RANCH EGG CO.,** Denver, Colo.  
**EPPEL PRODUCE CO.,** Denver, Colo.  
**EMMETT PRODUCE CO.,** Emmett, Idaho.



This shows the necessity of fattening your capons. This R. I. Red capon is seven months old. He is vigorous but thin. When they reach this stage you can double their weight in a very short time.

# FIFTEEN STEPS IN CAPONIZING

By S. K. Burdin, Toronto, Canada.

Nearly all authors claim that cockerels can be successfully caponized between the ages of two to six months, and illustrate the operation by showing birds in an advanced stage of development (fully feathered and large combs). This error is directly responsible for countless failures, and shows their lack of having comprehended the rudiments of what is essential for success. When birds are "just right," however, results are all that can be desired, and the flesh will remain as sweet and tender as a broiler, or as it was at time operated on.

For market purposes any of the American, English or Asiatic breeds, or their first crosses, are desirable, and the capons should be kept till they weigh eight pounds or better. The season when the prices are usually most attractive is from Christmas to Easter inclusive.

You will observe that the above classification or selection does not include the various Mediterranean classes. I regret that custom has decreed or been responsible for this, and while the demands of certain large markets are sufficiently emphatic to create "custom," yet I am convinced present so-called customs are really chargeable to the same cause—poor tools and unsatisfactory results—or inability to caponize the smaller breeds owing to clumsy instruments. At any rate markets are subject to education, and they should yield as readily on this as any other question, where a demand is to be created for a valuable staple article of food, and should readily accept capons of the smaller or lighter breeds.

If you are only raising a few for your own use, caponize the cockerels and your meat supply can be spread over the entire year instead of being compelled to use or dispose of them while young. This applies to all breeds, whether large or small, and if they are fed the same as hens or pullets, they will be ready to use any time between the ages of four and eighteen months. They can run anywhere, but do the best in a pen by themselves.

Let us take stock, as it were, and see what caponizing means to the poultry interests when the operation can really be performed successfully.

1. The youngsters—pullets and capons—grow faster and develop better.

2. Keeps your flocks orderly. Reduces noise, quarreling and feed bills, and aids in infertile egg production.

3. Their value increases with age, until full maturity is reached.

4. You can watch markets and take advantage of high prices and increased growth.

5. You can enjoy the greatest luxury, on your own table, known to king or peasant, at a cost less than that of ordinary cockerels.

6. A reputation is easily built up and maintained for the highest grade of table poultry known, enabling you to choose your customers and practically fix your own prices.

7. As foster-mothers the capon will stop your losses from hawks and crows and solve many of your brooding problems.

8. As a means of conserving resources, increasing quantity, improving quality, and as a source of greater efficiency, pleasure, satisfaction and profit, caponizing is one of the greatest assets poultry raising possesses today.

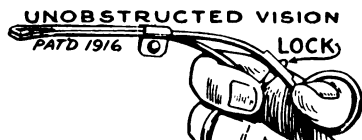
## INSTRUMENTS.

**Operating Table (Recommended)**—After trying many different designs I am convinced that the one shown herewith is the most convenient, simple and practical yet devised. Quick adjustment to the varying conditions or sources of light is most important. This table meets every requirement. It is quickly and easily made, consisting of two (2) pieces of one inch pine boards, twelve inches wide, twenty inches long and hinged together at one end as shown. Wire nails for holding the bird stretched



out are driven along the edges of one piece two inches apart. To secure the desired angle use a loose block between the boards and move it forward or backward. Made in twenty minutes, costs about twenty cents.

**Restraining Cords and Weights**—These may be of any suitable material. The weights should be about a half pound each. The cords work best when attached to the weights in such a manner as to allow the weights to move or center themselves easily. This is accomplished by wrapping a cord about the weight and tying it the same as a parcel; then run a longer piece under it, tying the two ends (of long piece) together making it like a hoop or band, the desired length. This arrangement will be found very convenient when wrapping the cord about the feet or hooking them back of the wings, as the weight will always be in the right place, as it slides or centers quickly.



Cut No. 2.

The carefully beveled, narrow surfaced, accurately adjusted gripping parts, coupled with the free action, unobstructed vision features, enables the operator to use this remover with great ease and certainty—no fumbling, bungling or guess work. Note how instrument is held in the hand.



Cut No. 3.  
Showing Detail of Spreaders.

**Spreaders**—Much of the success of an operation depends upon the spreaders used. The successful spreader is one that can be easily inserted, will stay in position, hold the incision open properly, and not be in the way during the operation.

**Tearing Hook**—This instrument is for making an opening through the lining (peritoneum), which covers the intestines and hides the testicles.

**Knife**—The knife used in caponizing should be of good material so as to hold a keen edge, and have a sharp tapering point. Do not use a blunt, dull knife; it is useless and cruel.

## WHEN TO CAPONIZE.

This does not refer to the time of year or time of day, but to the age or stage of development. Caponizing may be done by the use of natural or artificial light at any time during the day or night, and any time during the year when birds of suitable size are available.

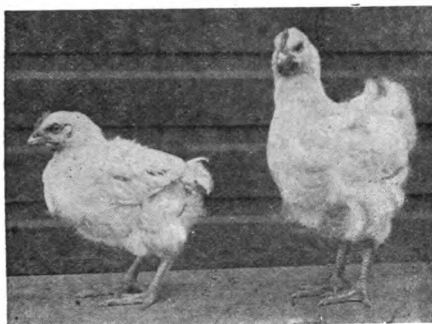
There is a general tendency of allowing cockerels to get too large before operating. This tendency is due to two causes: First, the erroneous theory heretofore taught that they can be successfully caponized at six months of age. Second, they are often larger and more advanced than they appear as they are running about the yard. If necessary, weigh them.

There cannot be any hard and fast rule laid down because of the varying characteristic of the different breeds, different strains and different conditions under which chicks are kept and fed. Speaking in general terms of the American, English or Asiatic breeds and their crosses, the cockerels should be fairly well feathered, be from two to three months old and weigh from one to two pounds each. This applies only to thrifty, healthy birds. See Cut No. 4.

Birds that have been stunted through crowding, or other causes, will be found often too far advanced sexually when about right in size or weight. Runts, scrubs and mongrels do not make even, prime and satisfactory market capons. These should be used on the home table.

The state of development, however, is a better guide. When the

comb and wattles begin to get red and grow, the organs begin to develop also, and when the organs are about the size of a good plump kernel of wheat they are right for best results.



Cut No. 4.  
Bird at left just right. One at right too large and too old.

There is a period of from two to three weeks when the operation should be uniformly successful. Later than this the danger of deaths and "slips" increases rapidly. A little experience will help you to tell when they are right for best results.

The same rules apply for the smaller, or Mediterranean breeds, excepting that they must be worked earlier or when smaller. These should be caponized when weighing ten to eighteen ounces, the lighter weight preferably, or before their combs and organs become too much developed.

In caponizing turkeys they should be operated upon as soon as sex is distinguishable—or as soon as they begin to "shoot-the-red." All the tools and instructions apply to turkeys the same as for cockerels of the larger breeds.

### STARVING OR FASTING..

The birds should be kept from all food and water for about thirty-six hours. This allows the intestines to become empty and fall away, allowing plenty of room in the abdominal cavity to see and work.

Put the birds in a dark, cool place in a coop with a slat or wire bottom. This insures clean feet, no litter or droppings to pick, and the birds are comfortable and in first-class condition. Cockerels confined before feeding Friday morning are ready Saturday noon, etc.

I prefer to operate early in the morning, before the sun is high and hot. In such an event the birds should be confined before their supper on Thursday night.

### DISTINGUISHING COCKERELS FROM PULLETS.

In all single comb varieties it is easy to distinguish the sexes, but with rose comb varieties it is more difficult (especially for the inexperienced) at the proper time, or early enough for best results.

However, with a little practice you will be able to select them by their appearance. Cockerels have larger, broader heads and bolder eyes, while the feet and legs are larger also.

Should a pullet find her way to your operating table no injury need result, if you use ordinary care. More will be said about this point later.

### WHICH ORGAN TO REMOVE FIRST.

As a result of very careful observation I am led to make the following suggestions and recommendations.

There are as many varying or different characteristics among birds internally as externally. I doubt if there are two specimens that are

identical. True, many are practically so, yet many will differ so radically that a novice will quickly recognize it, and it is only by preparing you for such irregularities, of their internal arrangement, that you will be able to meet them successfully.

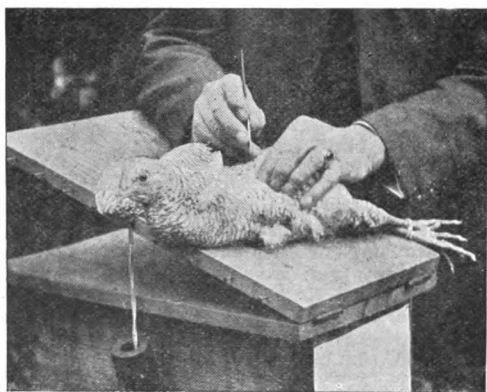
The left organ is usually uniform in size, location and appearance, but the right will frequently differ in all three particulars. The left is easier also to find and remove, therefore I always recommend starting on the left side. There is still another reason.

Pullets have only one ovary. This is located on the left side. Therefore, if you should get a pullet by mistake, the error would be easily recognized upon making the first incision. The ovary will be described elsewhere. (See Step 12—Removal of Left Testicle).

### ABOUT ONE OR TWO INCISIONS.

As previously noted, under "When to Caponize," best results are obtained by operating on the bird when the organs are small.

In order, however, to remove both from one incision, the operation must be delayed until the organs are larger and hang more pendant, or the operator cannot locate and grasp the lower one properly. This brings the birds up to an age and size where the chances of deaths and "slips" are greatly increased; therefore, I prefer working them when younger (making two incisions) when success is much greater. However, I am not going to say, as one author does, that the "birds do better where two incisions are made," but I am prepared to say, after many experiments, it is impossible to tell from any outward appearance, other than the wounds, those with one or those with two incisions. One appears to do as well as the other after the operation.



Cut No. 5.

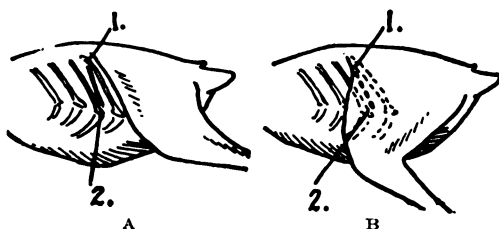
This cut shows bird properly restrained or fastened on the operating table, for removal of left testicle, feathers removed and last rib located. The cord is wrapped once around the legs; it need not be wrapped around the wings—just caught back of them. The weights shown here are "Sash Weights." Any material of desired weight, like brick, stone or metal will answer. Note position of bird on the table, fingers of left hand and of the knife in the right.

But, for the reasons stated, I strongly recommend a double or two-incision operation. You are nearer the organs, you can work smaller or younger birds, and your success will be correspondingly greater.

Don't work birds too large or too far developed.. Caponize them as fast as they are ready, whether you have one or one hundred.

### LIGHT.

Good light is essential. For the beginner weak sunlight is recommended. Artificial light can be used successfully with a little practice. Steady light is imperative. A cloudy day (first sun, then shadow) is unsatisfactory, as the eyes cannot adjust themselves to the sudden changes.



Cut No 5½.

"A" shows where incision is made.

"B" shows how the thigh moves forward and covers incision between ribs (see dotted lines) when bird is released, thus making wound self-closing—no "stitching up" or dressing of any sort needed.

A large window, or open shed, facing north or east, will be found very satisfactory. Light can be too bright as well as not bright enough, as it makes too sharp lines of demarcation between shadow and sunshine.

### REMOVAL OF LEFT ORGAN.

Personally I see no advantage in operating on a dead bird before a live one is used. If you wish to use the dead bird, however, kill one of those you have starved by knocking it on the head, this leaves all the blood in the body, so veins will show about the organs the same as in a live one, and proceed as directed for live birds.

See that everything is ready. Have a shallow basin of clean water and a sponge or clean cloth handy. See that the knife has been sharpened to a keen edge and point, on a fine oil or whetstone. (Do not use a coarse sharpener; it will ruin the edge.)

Place the operating board upon a barrel, or use a narrow box as shown in Cut No. 8. If a barrel is used, let the weights drop down inside. A box, as shown, makes a most convenient arrangement, as there is a place to lay instruments, set a dish or any other small article. Also, when changing or turning bird over all that is necessary is to seize the bird by the feet and wings, grasping the cord at same time, and lift bird up and change ends or turn over, without detaching and attaching weights.

Step No. 1—Place bird in position as shown in Cut No. 5. Wind cord once around feet and once around nail. Hook other cord back of wings, stretch bird out and wind cord once round nail. Bird is held firmly in this way without strain, as is the case with heavy weights.

Step No. 2—Pluck the feathers in front of hip and over the short ribs.

Step No. 3—Take knife in hand as shown, letting the point extend about half an inch below the middle finger.

Step No. 4—Standing behind and at its back, press fingers of left hand between hip and ribs as shown. This will reveal the last rib. Place point of knife between the last two or just in front of the last one. Keep fingers of left hand well pressed down so the rib shows plainly. (See Cuts Nos. 5 and 5½.)

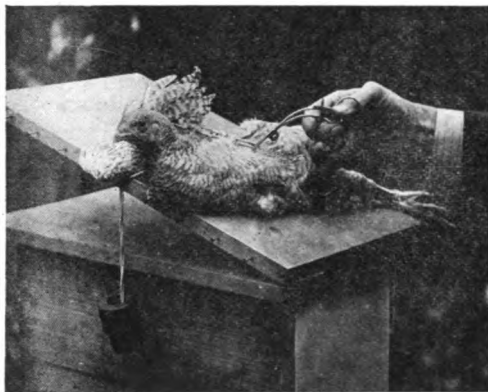
Step No. 5—Now, with a firm quick pressure, plunge the knife down into the abdomen, between the ribs, until the end of the middle finger hits. No danger of going too deep, as the finger acts as a guide; so don't be afraid, just give it a good firm stroke or pressure. Make the incision not over ⅝ to ¾ of an inch long keeping as far away from the back as the angle in the ribs will allow. Keep the left hand firmly pressed back of the rib and do not remove it until you have placed spreader in position.

Step No. 6—If there should be considerable blood from the incision, pause a moment until it begins to clot and then wash it off.

Step No. 7—Insert spreaders by pressing the lips together with right hand, giving it a slightly rolling or rocking movement as you place the blades or lips into the incision. Press them down until the handles or wires strike the ribs, then release pressure slowly. The spreader will now point over bird's back, which brings the longest lip or blade against the last or weakest rib for which it is especially designed.

Step No. 8—Now come from behind or back of the bird and work from in front. If the wound is bloody it is well to sponge it off again, using a moist sponge or cloth to avoid getting water in the incision.

Step No. 9—Take tearing hook and make an opening through the thin filmy membrane (peritoneum) that covers the bowels and hides the testicles. Be careful not to catch hold of intestines with the hook. If birds have been kept without food and water, as directed, with no litter or droppings to pick at, their bowels will give no trouble, but it is well to go a little slow and be careful until you learn the proper course of procedure. Make this opening about the same size and directly under the incision.



Cut No. 6.

This cut shows the final locking of Remover prior to withdrawing. Note the way the Spreader points over the back, and position of the hand and instrument.

Step No. 10—Now tilt or adjust your table until the light falls into the opening properly. This is done by changing the angle of the upper part, and also moving the table and smaller box to the right or left.

Step No. 11—Now examine the opening, the intestines and the general internal conditions. The testicle is just above the backbone and slightly to the left of opening. It should be easily located, though sometimes it will be covered up with the bowels. It should be about the size of a good plump kernel of wheat, or a very small navy bean, and of a yellowish color, though sometimes they are dark, owing to congestion of some slight degree.

Step No. 12—If not in full view and easily distinguishable, take the blunt end of the Tearing Hook and gently press the bowels down and away until you can see the organ plainly, moving the table if necessary to allow the light to fall fully upon it. You should have no trouble to distinguish the organ, as it is unlike any of its surroundings in color, shape and size. If by any chance you have a pullet, instead of a testicle, and in exactly the same place, you will find her ovary. This will be yellowish in color, flat in shape and look like fish eggs or little yellow blubbers. Release her, allowing her to run with the capons for a few days.

Step No. 13—Do not hurry. The bird is not suffering. Look for the spermatic artery that runs just back of the organ. It is not always visible, though always there. It may usually be seen pulsating by looking at either end of the testicle. It is darker than its surroundings and is usually well defined. If this artery is gripped by the Remover it may be ruptured and the bird will die. There is plenty of room between it and the organ for the gripping parts of the Remover, so there is little danger of killing the bird; if you do, it is in perfect health, simply pluck and cook it.

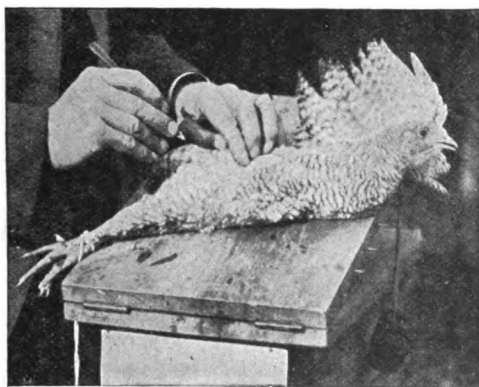
Step No. 14—Now take Removers, close them, insert them in the opening, being careful to keep them closed, but not locked. Place them under the organ and raise them up till it falls off. It will be observed to be slightly pendant or hanging down. If the bird struggles, on account of the tickling sensation caused by this action, don't try to withdraw the

Remover; simply keep it closed until the bird stops struggling. Now open and close the Remover once or twice, without withdrawing it, being particular to close or bring the gripping parts together very lightly. In this position anything like a cord or sinew would slip through between them easily, while if closed together too hard they would hold firmly everything within their grasp. On this point much of your success or failure depends. Now grasp the organ lightly, being careful to get it as nearly in the center of the instrument as possible. Then turn your hand slightly to right and left, at the same time drawing the instrument towards you just enough to make the organ fit snugly against the gripping parts. Don't lock the instrument yet. If it was closed lightly before being drawn towards you, the cords sustaining the testicle would slip through between the gripping parts, thus stretching the testicle out enough to clear the artery. Now ease back a trifle and then add sufficient pressure to lock the remover. See Cut No. 6.

Step No. 15—All that is necessary now to complete the operation is to withdraw the instrument, bringing with it the organ and its attachments. No twisting or cutting, just a straight gentle pull that removes all cords and attachments clean, leaving nothing to grow or develop. See Cut No. 9. If the bird was at the right age or stage of development, and the foregoing points carefully observed, there is little danger of death, and practically no danger of a "slip." But if the artery is ruptured, death is certain; or if the cords and attachments are not all brought away with the organ, a "slip" is inevitable. With a little experience you will be able to tell by the resistance offered whether you have gripped the artery or not. When this occurs, unlock and take a new hold, thus saving your bird.

### REMOVAL OF RIGHT ORGAN.

Turn the bird over, or change ends with him, (following directions given just before Step No. 1—Removal of Left Organ), and follow carefully each step, from 1 to 8 inclusive, as laid down for removal of that organ, excepting that you stand as shown in Cut No. 7 and have Spreader point in opposite direction, or as shown in Cut No. 8.



Cut No. 7.

This shows bird in position for removal of right organ, feathers removed and last rib located. Note position of bird on operating table, position of first two fingers of left hand and the way the knife is held in the right.

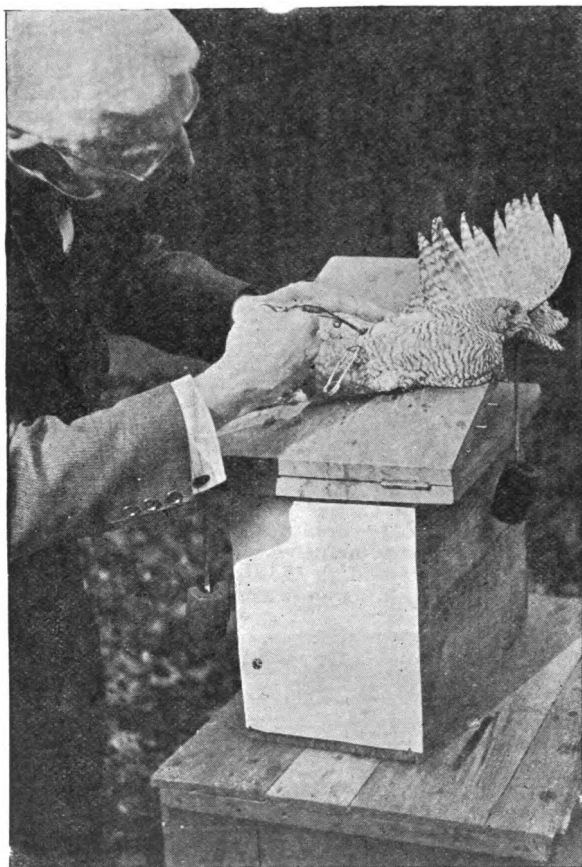
(Regarding where to stand and how to locate place to make the incision, should be reversed by "left-handed" persons.)

Step No. 9—In making the opening through lining (peritoneum) on the right side, care must be taken to work well back towards the bird's hip and open into the abdominal cavity, or over the intestines. Pay particular attention to this, because it is very easy to get too far forward and open through the midriff or diaphragm into the lung cavity, instead of into



the abdominal cavity. In such an event the organ will not be found at all, as it is located back of the diaphragm. If the lining, however, is opened in the proper place, the organ may be located in the same manner as it was upon the left side. Remember it is just back of the diaphragm.

Step No. 10—Follow Step No. 10 as given for left organ.



Cut No. 8.

Gripping the right organ, note how the light falls directly into the incision and onto the testicle. Note how the hand and instrument are all below the line of vision—no shadows or uncertainty. This operating table will fit any bird and is easily adjusted to any condition of light. It can be made by any one in twenty minutes, and costs about twenty cents. Place it on a barrel or box as shown above.

Steps Nos. 11 to 15—As previously mentioned, the right organ may vary somewhat in different specimens, in size, shape and location, and is the most difficult one to remove. However, all the directions as given from Nos. 11 to 15 for removal of the left apply also to the right organ, with perhaps one exception. In removing the left organ I urged you to get the organ in the center as nearly as possible before locking the Remover. In removing the right, owing to its position, it will be found necessary occasionally to work the organ into the corner, as it were, of the Remover, so as to get as far away from the spermatic artery as possible.

To illustrate:—The artery usually runs parallel to the backbone. The normal organ is longer than its diameter, and its normal position is parallel with the artery and backbone, but it may also be nearly at right

angles or perpendicular to them. In such an event, it is necessary to work the organ well into the corner on the left side of the Remover before its final locking, so as to get away from the artery. Especially is this necessary in working small birds, or breeds. Your principal difficulties will be met in removing the right organ. **Don't pinch or mangle the testicles.**

#### **REMOVING BOTH ORGANS THROUGH ONE INCISION.**

If, however, you wish to operate from one incision, the work must all be done from the right side. Follow directions for right side (making a slightly larger incision) and when ready remove the lower or left organ first and then the upper or right organ last.

This operation is not recommended, for the reason previously given. If attempted, however, wait until you have had considerable experience in caponizing.

#### **CARE OF INSTRUMENTS WHILE OPERATING.**

A mild solution of any of the commercial disinfectants is usually recommended. The main thing, however, is to keep the tools reasonably clean. If they are wiped off frequently with a damp cloth or sponge this is all that is necessary.

#### **CARE AFTER THE OPERATION.**

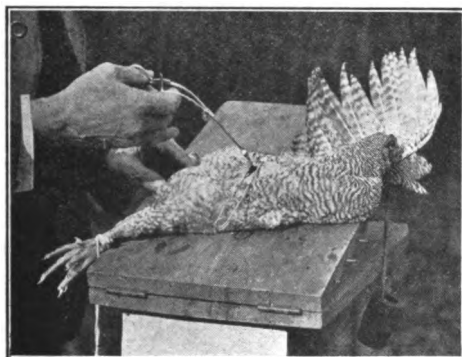
Provide a wet mash, shade and drinking water. Mark them in some permanent manner. Keep them by themselves for about a week, and where you can catch them at will. Provide low roosts or let them sit on the floor at night. Give the usual ration after the second day. Some put them back in in their runs immediately after the operation, but it is better to keep them separate for a few days at least.

#### **BLOATING OR WIND PUFFS.**

Next day after caponizing look the birds over for Wind Puffs. Some will be found to look too "plump" or too round. This is because of air under the skin. Either open the wound and let the air out, or make a new opening up near the wing. A toe punch is ideal for this as it makes (or should) two small round holes, letting the air out quickly. A sharp pointed knife will also be found handy and efficient. Do this daily until puffing stops.

#### **"SLIPS OR FAILURES."**

There will usually be a few "slips," especially at first, or until you get better acquainted with the operation and its requirements. These will be distinguishable in from four to eight weeks after the operation. As soon as their true character can be determined, they should be regarded as cockerels and treated as such, killing them for home or market purposes before they get too old.



Cut No. 9.  
This cut shows the final removal of the right organ. Note the light spot in gripping parts and the dark streak leading into the incision. This shows the testicle and cords as they should appear when brought away for successful results.



#### FEEDING TIME ON RANGE.

Whether raising poultry for pleasure, profit, utility or exhibition purposes, the capon is the most satisfactory mother yet found. His conduct is so easy, graceful and efficient, he beats a hen at her own job and makes her appear like a novice.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. After a young male bird has been killed and dismembered for cooking, take the back and look at the testicles. Notice where they are located. Note the location of the last two ribs. Examine to see if you can locate the artery which runs down the back near the testicles. Pull the male organs loose from the back with the thumb and forefingers and note the cords holding same.

2. After a chicken has been killed and picked, take your instruments, locate the last two ribs, make an incision and remove the organ from the dead bird. Turn it over and do the same on the opposite side.

3. Now you are ready to practice on some live specimens. Be sure that your birds have been conditioned as recommended in this lesson, and that they are of the proper age. Have no fear. You are certain to succeed. The operation is really very simple.

#### QUESTIONS ON CAPONS AND CAPONIZING.

##### Lesson No. 32.

1. What is a Capon? Describe the difference in appearance between a cockerel and a capon.
2. How long before operating should the cockerels be selected?
3. What is the first and most important thing which we must keep in mind in making Capons?
4. What is the second most essential thing?
5. Is it best for the beginner to operate from one side or from both sides? Why?
6. In case the operation is performed only from one side, which male organ should be removed first, the upper or lower? Why?
7. At what age or size should cockerels be caponized?
8. With reference to the location of the ribs, where should the incision be made?
9. Why is it necessary for the intestines to be empty?
10. Should the remover be placed on the organ itself, or should it be just below the organ when removing it?





# The King of the Poultry Yard

Turkeys are a very profitable fowl if the grower understands the correct method of breeding, hatching and rearing them. More turkeys should be grown by the average poultryman. The turkey crop has decreased 44 per cent in the last ten years. This is one bird of which all Americans are proud. It was originally one of our native wild birds and they are yet found in some sections in their wild state. Most turkey breeders have not given the study to turkey culture that have breeders of other varieties of poultry.

Especially are they adapted to the general farms. Mammoth Bronze, White Holland and Bourbon Red appear to be three of the most popular varieties. While the market seems to call for a large turkey in most cases, yet the best breeders are those of medium size. The overly large turkeys are in great demand for exhibition purposes and for special holiday trade, yet when it comes to the breeding pen, we would use large or at least good sized hens with medium or good sized toms.

Vitality counts in turkeys as well as in all other poultry. The breeding stock should have big shanks and a stout appearance throughout. Never breed from a turkey which has a dead look to its plumage. The luster and richness indicate health.

Whatever you do, keep but one variety of turkeys and give them the range of the farm, except during the breeding season. By all means you must avoid inbreeding and careless selection. Do not breed from immature stock. We prefer to incubate the eggs with chicken hens, and we prefer to raise them with turkey hens as mothers. In fact, we have never been successful with any other method. In the very beginning we would like to impress eight vital points which should be remembered in raising turkeys:

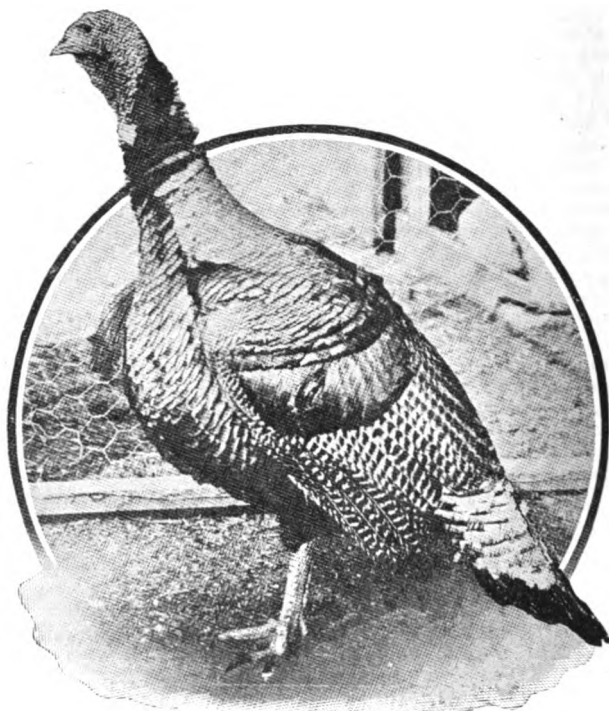
1. Use mature breeding stock of high vitality.
2. Take some precaution once a week to keep the poults free from lice.
3. Do not inbreed.
4. Never let the poults or growing stock run to an oat field.
5. If the mature turkeys or growing stock show signs of being out of condition, give them about one-half teaspoonful of epsom salts, dissolved in water, or give a tablespoonful of castor oil. Clear the intestinal tract in this way and then feed a slightly moistened mash without too much cornmeal or fattening food in it.
6. Feed the poults very sparingly. Feed about half of what you really feel they should have. More poults are killed by overfeeding and head lice than all other causes combined.
7. Do not allow the turkey hen to wander too far with the poults for the first few days. After they have sufficient strength, allow them to have free range.
8. Turkeys have practically the same diseases that chickens have, and we use the same treatments on our turkeys as we do with other poultry.

## MATING TURKEYS.

There is but one system to follow in mating turkeys. Any and all varieties require the same system and that is to select fowls full of vigor in every instance. Never, under any circumstances, do we mate any other. If you expect a choice flock of turkeys, either for exhibition or market, you must select breeders that have plenty of snap and are full of life, birds that have never been sick or stunted in growth from any cause. To have a successful hatch and to have poults which live, we must select turkeys that have all these requirements. After vigor, we consider size. Then the next thing, we select for fine plumage. Thousands of what would be fine and valuable turkeys are practically worthless because the breeder is a color fiend. It is not all color that goes to make a valuable turkey. You must have some size, because nine customers out of ten call for size. For market purposes, large, plump, fat turkeys bring the best price in every instance, hence, size is considered first, then color. There is considerable more value and importance to mating turkeys properly than the average grower realizes. This is a very difficult proposition. The idea of buying little scrubs by the pound



for breeders, just because they are cheap, is absurd. No matter what your purpose in breeding is, make a rule to have only the very best for breeders, even if they do cost the most. They are the cheapest in the end. The cheapest turkeys we ever purchased were the best we could get at a long price, as considered by the average turkey grower. They were the best breeders, their progeny brought us the most money of any turkeys we ever owned. However, it is not the rule that the largest turkeys are the best



A Mammoth Bronze Tom. This seems to be one of the most popular varieties and is the largest of all poultry

breeders, or will make the highest scoring specimens. No matter how well they may be bred, if they are overgrown they are almost worthless as breeders. What we want is good proportions and the happy medium in size in breeding stock.

#### Standard Weights of Turkeys.

VARIETY	Adult cock (2 years old or over)	Yearling cock (1 year old and less than 2)	Cockerel (less than 1 year old)	Hen (1 year old or over)	Pullet (less than 1 year old)
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Bronze. . . . .	36	33	25	20	16
Bourbon Red. . . . .	30	25	20	18	12
Narragansett. . . . .	30	25	20	18	12
White Holland. . . . .	28	24	20	18	14
Black. . . . .	27	22	18	18	12
Slate. . . . .	27	22	18	18	12

#### NUMBER OF FEMALES TO ONE MALE.

The most important step in the raising of turkeys is the proper selection of the breeding stock.

Not more than fifteen turkey hens should be mated with one vigorous tom. If more than that is used it is advisable to have two toms and use

one of them one day while the other is confined. The following day alternate the birds. Otherwise, the birds will be continually fighting and satisfactory results will not be obtained.

If a large number of turkeys is to be bred from and the turkeys are to be confined it is a good idea to have a lot for that purpose and you should have an acre of ground for every fifteen turkey hens. As many as forty-five hens can be kept in such an enclosure providing you have as many as three toms and alternate them each day. One tom being used every three days. The birds should be turned out late in the afternoon and allowed to range, but should be forced to come back to their quarters at night to roost.

### **BREEDING STOCK OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE.**

One of the most successful turkey growers of the country made the following statement and we acquiesce in his views. They are so worthy of mention that we repeat them: "It is a law of nature that, 'like begets like.' Strong, vigorous, well developed parental stock transmits its strength and vigor to its offspring while the repeated selection of inferior birds for a number of generations make this inferiority hereditary. To breed from immature or poor specimens is to violate one of the first laws of breeding.

\* \* \* In selecting the male bird remember that he is one-half the flock. The most essential point is his vigor, then size, shape and plumage; in fact he should be as near perfection as possible. Select females having long deep bodies, broad backs and breasts and large shanks. While size must be considered I do not advocate the use of extreme heavy weights as breeders. Turkeys that weigh Standard weight when in good breeding condition are heavy enough and give better satisfaction, as the eggs will be better fertilized and the young birds more vigorous than if heavy weights had been mated."

### **NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS.**

"There is no infallible guide or method to follow in raising turkeys. If you have a method by which you have been successful, that is the method for you—stick to it. Do not sacrifice common sense for method. To those who are unsuccessful, the best advice is to start right. Start with healthy, vigorous breeding stock and strive to improve it. Unless you have this solid foundation it is vain to hope for success. You cannot raise turkeys with the aid of a medicine bottle. Use common sense in the matter of feeding, give ample range to the growing stock, and you will find it a pleasure and not a hardship to raise turkeys."

### **SELECTION IS IMPORTANT.**

The way we improve size, weight and markings is by selecting the finest marked toms with good bones and frame. Color with us is nothing, if the size is not there. We do not care for fat. It is not fat, but size we want. With a fine marked tom of medium or good size, we mate with him some of the largest hens. The tom and hens must each have good shape. There are so many turkeys inferior in shape. The time has come, that the markets pay a better price for real choice turkeys than for inferior specimens. Many market buyers never bred a fancy turkey, but we would as soon risk their judgment in many cases on shape, size and color as the judgment of many poultry judges. That is saying big things, but they have made the market business a life-long study and handle more turkeys in one season than the average judge will in all his judging experience. They have found out the class that brings the most money in the best markets. The private trade demands the best. Hence, the time has come that the market business has merged into the fancy and the highest quality turkeys today bring the prime figure at market. Consequently, the mating and breeding for his quality should be carefully considered. We must get away from the old-time practice of using "any old thing just so it's a turkey."

As stated before, in the selection of birds for breeders, we have found several things to be considered and we believe foremost should be strength. We mean by that good, healthy, well-matured stock. Avoid inbreeding. We believe all good turkey raisers will agree with us in this. Color comes principally from the male bird. We use a medium size male with a brilliant bronze color, clear white edging. No real defect in markings, in fact,

the very best colored bird we can get. One cannot afford to be careless in selecting the male bird. He constitutes one-half the entire flock. One, if forced to, can use a defective female. The eggs marked, poults can be marked and in that way tab kept on the offspring.

Now after we have this year's turkeys mated with a fine, and well-marked tom to large hens, that were possibly not as well marked as the tom, next season, we reverse the order and select hens medium in size but exceptionally fine in plumage and mate to a very large tom with as good plumage as possible, and we are almost certain to have just what we want in both males and females, the desirable size with fine plumage.

### **SELECTION OF THE FEMALES.**

In selecting the females, we use birds with heads long and broad, a long body, yet full breast, a shank not short, yet not too long, well spread foot and long toes, a well poised head and bright, alert eyes, well barred wing, clear white penciling. The female is never so richly bronzed on fluff or lesser coverts, but we like to see plenty.

### **WHAT IS A DESIRABLE BREEDER?**

The following is our idea of a first-class turkey: Large, well-proportioned body; shanks medium in length, not too long, yet not what some would call "blocky," but rather lengthy, not tangling; with long, deep body; long, broad, well-arched back (no flat dished back birds find their way into our breeding pens) but a well-arched back is very desirable. You cannot get good shape nor large size from flat backed specimens. We want a full, round, deep breast, shanks large, feet large, head broad and large. Show us a turkey with a small snaky head, and you have a small, timid, wild, undesirable specimen every time. We want those that show a rich red about the head. We are aware that the head is changeable, but red should predominate. A domesticated turkey that presents a rather gray or blue head is never very vigorous and will not make a very good breeder, as a rule. Look well to the male for shape and color, and the females for size. We tolerate more imperfections with the females than in the males for the reason the male is at least half the flock. We mate from eight to ten females to one tom. This number is quite enough for best results. The females should not be younger than early pullets or yearlings. Never use late hatched females for breeders. We have used some late females as breeders with fair results, but as a rule they are not as satisfactory as older females. We prefer a well developed young tom to head our breeding pens, although we have had fine hatches from a tom five years of age. As a rule, however, the young toms, if well managed and from an early hatch, give best results for us. Now, as we have our matings complete, we will now look to the care of the eggs. Whatever you do, at least see that the breeding stock is fully matured.

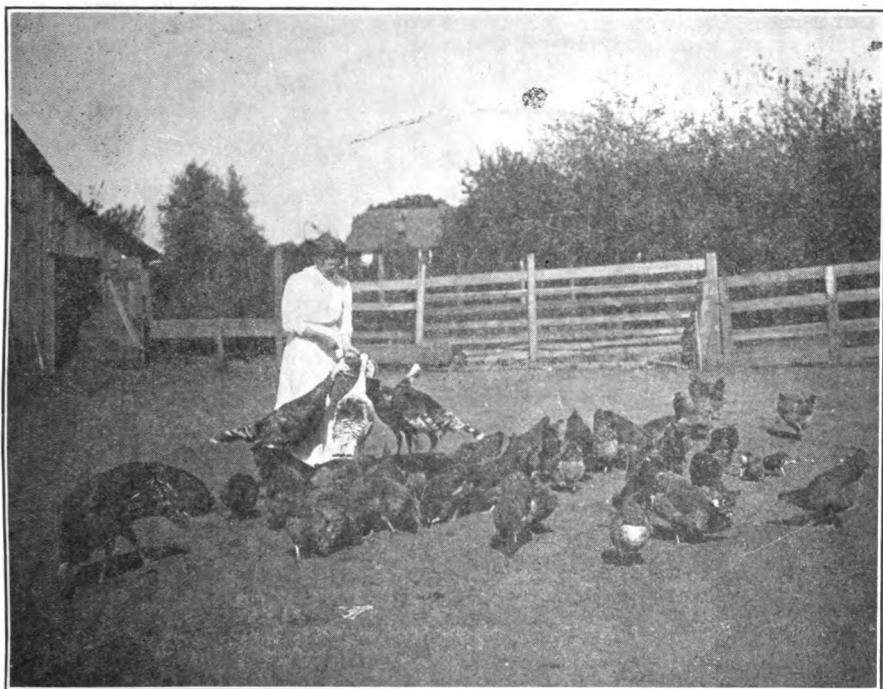
### **MANAGEMENT OF LAYERS AND CARE OF THE EGGS.**

The management of our laying turkeys and the care of the eggs is a very important matter. The care of the breeding turkeys should date back as far as December of the previous year. Too many overlook the fact that breeding turkeys are too often rendered worthless by being overfed. An overly fat turkey hen is a failure when it comes to furnishing fertile eggs or normal shaped eggs, hence every precaution should be used to prevent overly fat breeding stock. Early in December, we make our final selection of the breeders and place them in a large two-acre park we make especially for our breeding turkeys. We care for and feed them carefully and see that they are not overfed, and get every natural requirement, such as fresh water, sharp grit, charcoal and animal food.

### **FEEDING THE BREEDING STOCK.**

We feed mostly wheat and hulled oats, with but very little corn. We possibly give a feed of corn once a week. We find we get better results by not feeding corn to the breeding stock. The animal food consists of beef livers, lungs and various kinds of meat scraps. Here is a very important feature of feeding breeding turkeys which is often overlooked. Animal food is the turkey's natural diet. In their natural wild state they live chiefly on insects and worms, with possibly only a small portion of their feed con-

sisting of small wild seeds, etc. Since we have been feeding our breeders animal food, they lay better, begin laying at least two weeks earlier and their eggs are much more fertile. As the season approaches for them to mate, we feed more whole wheat and less meat, yet at the same time continue to feed the livers or any other animal food we have, such as dry beef scraps, but in a more limited way. We keep oyster shell and sharp grit before them continually and find they will consume a great quantity of this material. The more grit and oyster shell they consume, it seems the more eggs they will lay. We note when they discontinue eating these materials, they discontinue laying, so we are confident these materials are very necessary to egg production. They may not add much to the materials that go to make the eggs, but they assist nature in all the functions to complete the composition of the egg. Frequently, we feed ground bone, but prefer the pure meat, such as livers. This appears to satisfy them better than any animal food we have ever used.



Proper methods of handling turkeys and kind treatment will cause them to become very tame, but care must be taken not to overfeed and cause them to become fat. No farm that affords plenty of range is complete without turkeys. They should not be fed with chickens.

The breeding stock should be kept in good flesh, but not fat. If they are confined to small quarters during the breeding season they must be provided with an abundance of green food, and kept supplied with water, grit, etc. The natural feed of the turkey is largely of grass, tender sprouts, insects, worms, seeds, nuts and young leaves. If you confine your turkeys it is necessary to provide foods that will act as a suitable substitute for the above natural feed. Corn, wheat and oats are the best grains to be used and vegetables, such as cabbage, beets, lettuce, turnips and potatoes, may be supplied. Meat food must be provided by either furnishing boiled beef livers or a small quantity of meat scraps and if possible provide skimmed milk, either sweet or sour. Give grit, oyster shell and charcoal. Do not

feed a large quantity of corn unless you provide an abundance of green food and force the turkeys to take a great deal of exercise.

### **FERTILIZING THE EGGS.**

When a tom treads a turkey hen and copulation has taken place, all the eggs laid by that hen during the entire season will be fertilized. The hen will lay a clutch of eggs and go to sitting, and if you break her up and she starts to lay again, the second clutch of eggs will be fertilized even though a male has not come in contact with the hen since the first of the season. We have seen farmers drive their turkey hens to a tom on a farm in the neighborhood and leave them there for a few days and then when they were taken home all the eggs laid by the hens the entire season were fertilized.

### **TURKEYS NEED RANGE.**

We do not yard our turkeys, but give them range. During the nesting season they are tolled into an enclosure out in the orchard, inside of which is placed barrels, real brush piles and boxes, the front hidden by loose piles of brush. China eggs are placed in the thus improvised hiding places. The turkeys are kept in a while and turned out each morning until after the nests are selected and three or four eggs laid. Then they are allowed to come and go at will. Sometimes Madame Turk takes the side of contrariness and has to be kept in all day for a few days, but seldom after having laid three or four eggs do they try to change nests. Use discretion in gathering the eggs, leaving the nest much as you found it, always a nest egg.

### **TO PREVENT RANGING TOO FAR**

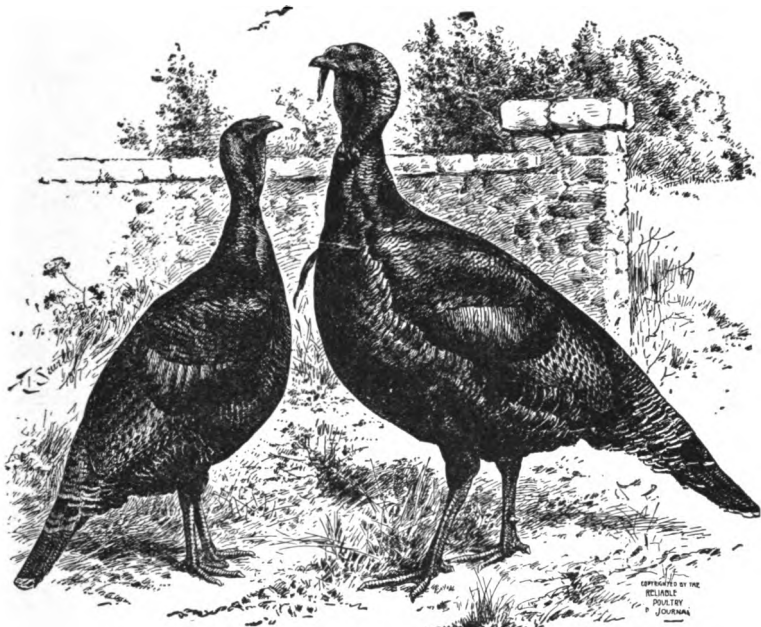
Very often trouble arises between neighboring farmers because a flock wanders over too wide an area and in some cases injures a neighbor's crop. If turkeys are fed heavily each morning and night this will help to prevent this to some extent, but perhaps a better way would be to confine the turkeys to a yard provided for them, which should contain about an acre of ground, and then release them from the yard about 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. By feeding them in the pen each morning and again at night they will soon become accustomed to the practice of being confined. If they persist in flying out of the pen the flight feathers of one wing should be clipped.

### **NESTING PLACES FOR THE LAYERS.**

About two weeks before they begin to lay, we place some apple barrels on their sides along the fence in a manner that will make the nest appear isolated. Frequently, we cut brush and place over them and around them. This gives the nest a very secluded appearance and the turkeys will take to them without the least bit of trouble. Straw and leaves are placed in each barrel, but never place any nest eggs in the nest until they begin laying. We formerly placed the nest eggs in as soon as the nesting was completed, but found the turkeys preferred to make their nest away from where there appeared to be other fowls laying, so discarded the early "nest egg" until the turkeys begin laying and then place a nest egg in every nest where a turkey layed. We remove the turkey eggs each day.

The artificial eggs you buy on the market are the best, as they will almost invariably break the hen eggs, and this soon teaches them to eat their eggs, which is a very expensive and undesirable habit and at the same time it is hard to break them of the habit. We have trouble with our hens stealing their nests away and then losing a large portion of the eggs. It does not take long to build a wire fence around a two-acre plot. A five-foot fence is ample to keep the turkey confined and the space is sufficient for them to get exercise and find plenty of green food. We clip the feathers of one wing in order to make sure that some timid hen will not break over and escape prior to laying her first eggs. If a hen once gets over and lays her first egg outside the park, it is a hard matter to keep that hen in the park. If they lay their first eggs in the park, in the barrels prepared for them, they will never attempt to break over the fence. A field fence, 49 inches high with a barbed wire four or five inches from the wire on top, makes it very hard for the hens to get over when the wings are "clipped," but a timid hen will sometimes manage to get over.

As soon as the hens begin laying, we gather the eggs every day, as the weather as a rule is yet cool. In this latitude March 15th often finds us with our first turkey eggs, while some get eggs a few days earlier than this. However, it is too cool to leave eggs out at this date as the eggs will chill and are worthless for hatching purposes. As we gather the eggs we mark them and keep tab on every egg as to hen and date laid. In this way, we know just what each individual hen has done and can do. All eggs are placed in a basket and covered snugly with woolen goods so that they are not exposed to light or cold. The temperature of the room should not vary much from 50 to 60 degrees for best results at hatching time. The eggs are turned once every day and care is taken that grease of any kind does not



A pair of Mammoth Bronze Turkeys, "ideal" in size, shape and color.

come in contact with the eggs. Grease will destroy the hatch. If we notice a soft-shelled egg, we look well to the condition of the breeders. If they are receiving plenty of grit, shell and charcoal, with all the fresh water they want, then we know the hens are becoming too fat and cut down the rations until the eggs become normal again. If you get your hens too fat, you will soon notice thin-shelled eggs, eggs that are inferior in shape, and a prompt correction in the feeding should be made.

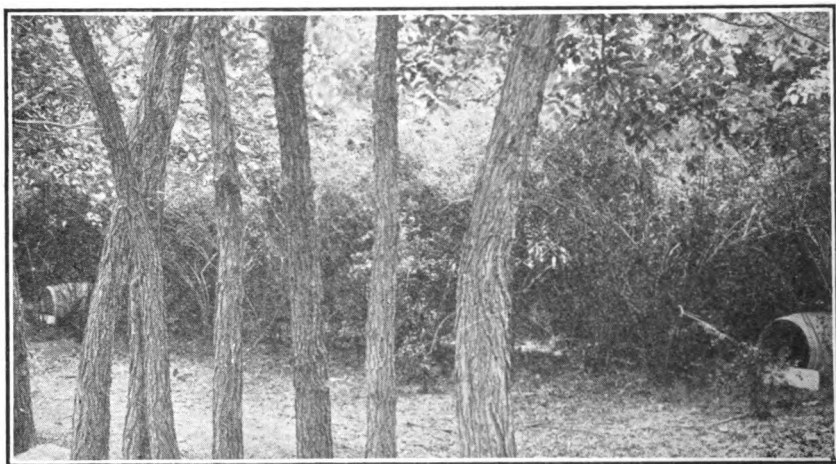
#### **PROVIDE NESTS BEFORE LAYING.**

It is an easy matter for a turkey grower to have his turkeys lay close to the residence or in some convenient spot about the farm. If the turkeys lay their eggs in secluded spots where their nests cannot be located it is the poultryman's fault. Early in the spring before the laying season begins it is wise to take barrels and make nests in convenient places, which are rather secluded and where the barrels and nests will be protected from view to some extent.

The barrel can be turned down upon its side and a six-inch board nailed in front of the lower portion so as to hold the straw and nesting material. Several of these barrels can be placed about the farm where the turkeys are in the habit of ranging and can be covered over with brush, or the barrels may be placed in a thicket or underneath shrubbery. About four inches of earth should be placed in the barrel on which the nest is made. Sticks

should be driven into the ground on each side of the barrel when it is lying on its side. This will prevent it rolling or blowing away. A nest egg can be used to induce them to start laying in these barrels. It is not necessary to use turkey eggs as nest eggs. Any large round shelled hen egg will do. If this method is used to induce the turkey hens to lay in nests that have been provided for them it is not necessary to yard your breeding stock in small pens. It is best not to do that if you can avoid it.

By following your turkey hens when they begin their search for a



Barrels should be placed in the shrubbery, brush, weeds or hiding places convenient to the premises. If this is done, most of the turkey hens will select one of the barrels in which to lay her eggs. They also make a good place in which to set the hens when they become broody.

nesting place in early spring you can easily locate the place in which they have hidden their nest. In case this is done it is best to follow a considerable distance behind the hen and to keep from view as much as possible. When the nest is once located it is no trouble to gather the eggs from that time on.

If you have any trouble locating the nest I would advise confining the turkeys in a small pen until about 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Then release them and those which are laying will head straight for their nests.

### GATHERING THE EGGS

It is usually advisable to take the fresh laid turkey egg from the nest each day and leave the nest egg in its place. If this is not done, crows, dogs, skunks or other enemies of the turkey may destroy the eggs. When this is done the turkey hen usually leaves the nest and finds a new nesting place.

The eggs should be kept in a cool room and should not be held longer than ten days or two weeks before being incubated.

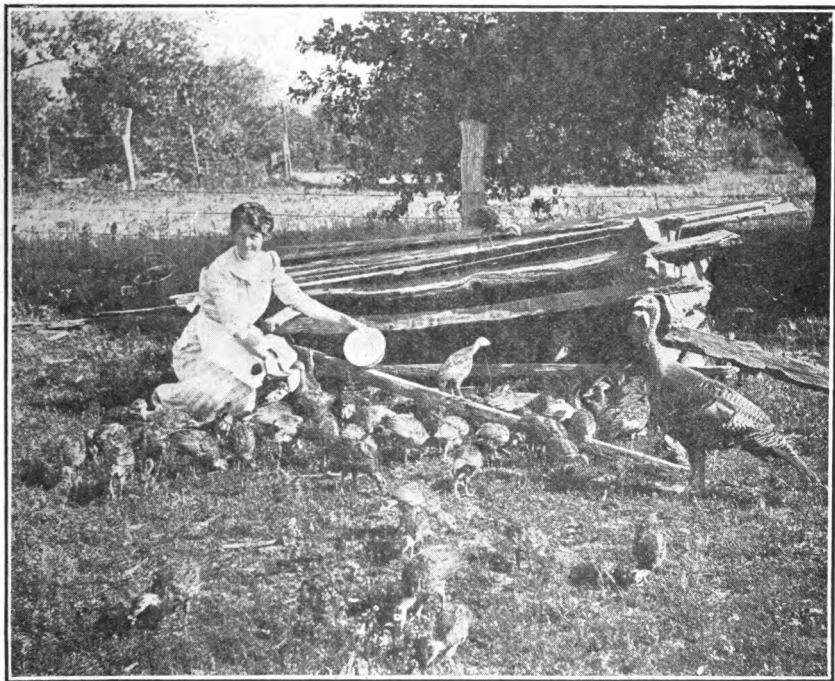
### SETTING THE HENS AND HATCHING THE EGGS.

We seldom set the turkey hens. One reason is we find if they are not tired from long sitting they are more attentive to their young; another they are large and sure to break eggs if disturbed in the least. We **always** raise the poults with a turkey mother. We set the eggs about April 15th under chicken hens. They cover ten easily. We always put soil in the nest boxes several inches deep, placing the nesting material on top. Have the hens rid of lice by use of some good powder. A few days before hatching, we take all litter from the nest, putting in fresh. Dust the hen, throw her out to rid her of the powder. Meanwhile the turkey hen has been setting for a week or perhaps three or four days. We place a few pipped eggs under her at night and leave her alone until she comes off with the two or three



turkeys. Then she is dusted thoroughly, let loose to dust her feathers, placed inside the run prepared for her, containing corn, grit, water and some clean sand. We give whole corn to the mother so the poults cannot eat it. The poults are placed inside, not more than twenty-five, generally not more than twenty, the gap closed, and she is left to get acquainted with her family. The runs we recommend are made of old rails. Other materials may be used if more convenient. Build a square pen, rail upon rail, until about four feet high, making a slip gap in one side. Cover with boards weighted down in case of heavy wind. At the bottom of the pen we place a board eight or nine inches high to keep the little poults inside the first day or until they have learned the mother's call. Always use the ground floor unless very damp, then some dry straw or chaff is scattered. If the weather is sunny and bright, the little fellows lie on the sand, take a pick at the grass, a sip at the water, and are seemingly quite content.

All experienced turkey growers are aware that turkeys do not all begin laying at the same time. We have had hens that did not begin laying until



A rail pen which makes a splendid place to start the poults. If you haven't the rails, a similar pen can be built from other material or lumber.

the first layers had laid out their first clutch of eggs and begun to show signs of broodiness. As soon as these layers become broody, we break them up and usually they begin to lay another clutch of eggs, and we at once set their eggs under chicken hens. By the time these eggs are due to hatch, the late layers have become broody. Generally the late layers are old hens, which make the best turkey mothers. To these the young poults are given. We place from nine to ten eggs under a chicken hen, owing to her size. We try to have the nest roomy, not too deep nor too broad, but just right, so that the hen will cover them conveniently. The eggs will hatch if they are fertile and have been well covered by a good sitting hen. We do not want the sitting hens located where other hens will bother them, but where they can have free access to food and water and a place to dust. We always try to have the hens that are to incubate the turkey eggs where we can shut

them away from the outside flock, yet have a place for them to dust and eat and drink without being molested. The hens come off at will and return to the nest at their option and we have always had good hatches. Turkey eggs will hatch anywhere that hen eggs will hatch. Some growers are meeting with success in hatching turkeys in incubators and raising them in confinement. We prefer the natural method. Every week our hens are slightly dusted with London Purple, by ruffling up the fluffy feathers in the back and sprinkling about half a teaspoonful of the poison down in the fluffy por-



Newly hatched poults. Hatched under chicken hens and then placed with their natural mother which may have been sitting for only three or four days. Feed them about one-half the amount you really feel they should have.

tion of the back feathers. This poison trickles down in the feathers and not a louse will be found at hatching time, which is a great saving in turkeys, as lice kills the baby turkeys almost as soon as they are hatched if they are numerous. No lice are left to disturb the poults when hatched and they grow right from the first.

As our turkey hens become broody, we test them as to disposition. The turkey hens that quickly jump off the nest at first sight as we approach will get no young turkeys, but those that remain on the nest and admit us fondling them gently, these we find make the best mothers and will not stroll so far away as will the timid turkeys. As soon as we select what gentle turkey hens we think will be sufficient to brood what turkeys we are likely to have, we break up the others and compel them to lay another clutch of eggs. On the twenty-seventh day of incubation, the turkey eggs will begin "pipping." We select a few that show signs of life and place under each turkey hen at night. The next morning the poults will be out.

It always appeared that a turkey hen enjoyed brooding turkeys better

than any other fowl. They are perhaps the greatest brooders and natural mothers we have. We have had turkey hens, after sitting only three days, become the very best mothers. We have a three-year-old hen which brooded 31 fine poults and only remained on the nest two nights as a broody turkey hen. She was so gentle and quiet we gave her five little newly hatched poults at night and she at once showed contentment and great satisfaction in being able to brood a clutch of poults. We gave her 31, which is just six more than we usually give a hen. We watch the chicken hens carefully and when the poults are all hatched, and as soon as they are dry, we take them away from the nest and place in a basket, lined with a woolen cloth and place in a warm room. At night, we take them out and place with the turkey hen, which soon calls them to her and invites them under welcome wings. The poults are not long in taking up the language of their natural mother. We never have any trouble in growing turkeys with the natural mother, but when we attempt to grow them with the chicken hens, they soon diminish and we cannot have much success with that method.

### **FOOD AND MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG TURKEYS ON EITHER LARGE OR LIMITED RANGE.**

Here comes the most important part of turkey raising. It is one thing to hatch a fine bunch of turkeys, but quite another thing to feed and raise them. We have discovered that thousands of young turkeys are killed by over-feeding, especially is this true where turkeys are grown on limited range. The same may be said of those grown on unlimited range as the poults on large farms receive ample food from range and are again fed or overfed by the attendant, and the results are indigestion and death. We feed our turkeys the least of any fowl grown on the farm. They always come home at night with a packed crop, filled with insects and the grasses which they relish most. They live and do much better on insect life than on artificial food or grains. During the berry season, turkeys enjoy this and nothing appeals to them more than a patch of berries. We never raised finer turkeys than five years ago when wild berries were plentiful during June, July and August. The world appeared to be alive with grass hoppers and all nature appeared to be in favor of the turkeys. That year, we never fed a thing after the young were started, and the turkeys made great size and developed the finest plumage. Some seasons it appears we are compelled to feed more than others. Avoid sloppy, sour or moulded foods by all means.

### **FEEDING THE POULTS.**

We feed first about noon (they are now forty-eight hours old) a little stale light bread dipped in sweet milk, pressed dry, sprinkled lightly with black pepper, not too much, scattered around on the sand. Feed about five times each day for two or three days. If the weather is clear, we open a gap in the pen on the third day about nine or ten o'clock and let Mother Turk come out with her brood, which she will do very leisurely. Always keep her well fed on whole corn and do not allow her to range far. As they grow older, commence to feed a little hard boiled egg, a little onion top or lettuce leaves cut fine, but the main feed should be bread and milk until after two weeks old, at no time feeding all they will eat. Usually feed about half what you really think they need. The hen is driven back to the run about five o'clock and kept in until after the dew is off the grass in the morning. The boards are thrown back from top of pen to allow sunshine each day and every five or six days the run is moved over to fresh ground. After eight weeks old they are allowed to roost out of runs unless stormy. Several feed the poults after that age, but they usually will not eat if you do. They are well filled after their day's gleaning of bugs and worms. Keep plenty of cool, clear water for them to drink. We find the main trouble with raising turkeys is, we forget they are not a chicken. The culture is very different. Turkey habits are wild. Give them freedom. Do not pamper.

Some use a V-shaped brood pen with coop at small end, to keep poults and hen in on rainy days, and until dew goes off in mornings, and try to have them in or near the pens by five o'clock each evening. If allowed to stay out before the poults are large enough to fly up to roost, enemies may destroy the flock.

Another good method of feeding turkeys is to give their first feed in brood pens (after they are thirty-six hours old) of good corn bread, fresh cottage cheese and hard boiled egg (chopped very fine), mix all together, and dust with black pepper. Do not give more than a heaping teaspoonful to fifteen poults, five times daily. After the first three days, begin to very slowly increase the amount of feed, and chop up onion tops, dandelion and lettuce leaves, with scissors, mixing this and a good brand of chick feed with other feed. Do not fail to give plenty of the green feeds named above, as they are the best health preservatives we ever used for turkeys. Give the poults sand and oyster shell, also plenty of fresh water in drinking



Feeding time. Turkeys require but little feeding. They do better if required to range for most of their food and allowed to make their selection.

fountains or a saucer with an inverted tomato can in it to keep them out of the water, as dampness is fatal to the poults.

As the weather gets warm, keep the poults anxious for food and they will range more earnestly for food, if it is possible for them to range. If young turkeys are fed anything like what they will eat up clean, they will soon contract bowel trouble and death is most certain to claim a large per cent of them.

### FEEDING THE YOUNG POULTS.

Different turkey raisers use different methods. Very few of them feed exactly alike. Some of the more successful methods recommended are as follows:

1. One hard boiled egg for every eight poults added to stale (but not sour) wheat bread dipped in hot milk and squeezed very dry. Crumble egg, including shell, and bread together and season with black pepper sparingly. Feed this for two weeks or more, alternating the egg with cottage cheese or clabbered milk. After two weeks, replace the egg with best grade of beef scrap, and keep clabbered milk before them all the time; but if they can find insects and seeds on the range feed only the milk after the third week. When beef scrap is fed, it must be absolutely fresh and sweet. Sift and use only the finer portion.

2. One raw egg for every eight poults added to a pint of bran and enough clabbered milk to mix rather dry. For the first fourteen days feed on a clean shingle once in two hours all they will clean up eagerly. Use

pepper or ginger only in case of sickness. After the fourteenth day gradually replace the bran, etc., by chick food, using care that it is not mouldy or musty or tainted in any way.

3. Fresh, dry, steel-cut oat meal alternated with stale bread dipped in sweet milk and squeezed very dry, then mixed with hard boiled egg. After two weeks replace the steel-cut oat meal by finely cracked wheat and finally by whole wheat. In place of the egg well-cooked, finely chopped liver or lean meat may be fed occasionally.

4. Hard-boiled egg chopped fine and corn-bread crumbs for the first week, and then whole wheat and hulled oats.

5. Stale bread, soaked in milk and squeezed dry, for the first few days, and then common chick feed.

6. Clabbered milk seasoned with salt and pepper, corn-bread crumbs.

7. Equal parts "pinhead" oats, whole wheat, and cracked corn.

8. Cracked wheat.

9. Corn meal and wheat bran mixed in the proportion of 3 to 1 and baked into bread.

10. Bran or middlings one-half, cracked Egyptian corn one-quarter, wheat and hulled oats one-quarter.

With any of the above methods of feeding it is also a good idea to use skimmed milk or butter milk. Both kinds should not be fed at the same time. Neither should the sweet and sour milk be alternated. If you are going to use sweet milk continue to use that throughout the season. The same is true in case you feed sour milk. It is a very good idea to feed the milk in the morning and give water in the afternoon. Chopped onion tops, lettuce leaves, dandelion leaves, alfalfa or clover make excellent green food. Very coarse sand should be used as grit. Provide granulated charcoal. Cottage cheese, boiled wheat or rice are excellent for the young poults.

#### **HELEN DOW WHITTAKER'S FEEDING SUGGESTION.**

1. Do not change from one ration to another. Select your method of feeding and stick to it.

2. Feed very little, always leaving the poults a little hungry.

3. Feed often; the first ten days once in two hours.

4. Give no sloppy food.

5. In a natural state young turkeys live upon flies, spiders, grasshoppers, grubs, snails, worms, eggs, etc., together with seeds and berries. Little turkeys need more animal food than little chicks and hard boiled egg and milk are the best substitutes for flies, bugs, etc.

6. Dry corn meal will swell in their crops, ferment, and kill them. Use cracked corn and corn meal sparingly while poults are young and always scald before feeding.

7. Remember you must build a large frame, big organs, much muscle, heavy plumage; therefore feed builders, not fats.

8. As soon as the poults jump over 12-inch boards allow them range. They need exercise to have healthy livers, but never allow them to range over ground on which many chickens have run.

9. When the poults begin to droop under the direct rays of a warm sun, shade must be provided.

10. Lice, dampness, filth, and over-feeding kill most of the poults that fail to live.

#### **PROPER FEED AND CARE FOR HALF GROWN TURKEYS.**

After your turkeys are past the age of six weeks or two months, if the proper methods are employed, you should experience no great trouble from that time on. It might be well for you to give some consideration to the recommendations of successful growers in reply to the following questions:

How do you care for and feed them during the period when about half grown, the time when first evidence of approaching maturity is shown? Do you consider this a critical period requiring special care?

"If grasshoppers are plentiful they get their own living and it is best for them. On these grass farms insects are plentiful. Developing the red does not seem to be a critical time here." Huguenot Poultry Yards.

"Allow them free range, do not feed anything, as they will find plenty

of insects. If treated in this way they have no critical periods." A. J. Kreutter.

"As soon as large enough give absolutely free range and they will do better than in any other way." Mrs. U. R. Fishel.

"Watch the young closely at all times, especially when half grown, which is a critical time. A large number succumb to blackhead or turkey cholera at that time. Do not feed corn until fattening time." Shepard Bros.

"Not if properly cared for and kept out of grain that is ripening. Allow them grit to aid digestion. Grain of any kind that is 'in the milk' is bad for a young turkey." Geo. Wolf.

"We give them the range of the stubble fields and they look after themselves. Plenty of grit must be furnished at this time." A. E. Blaker.

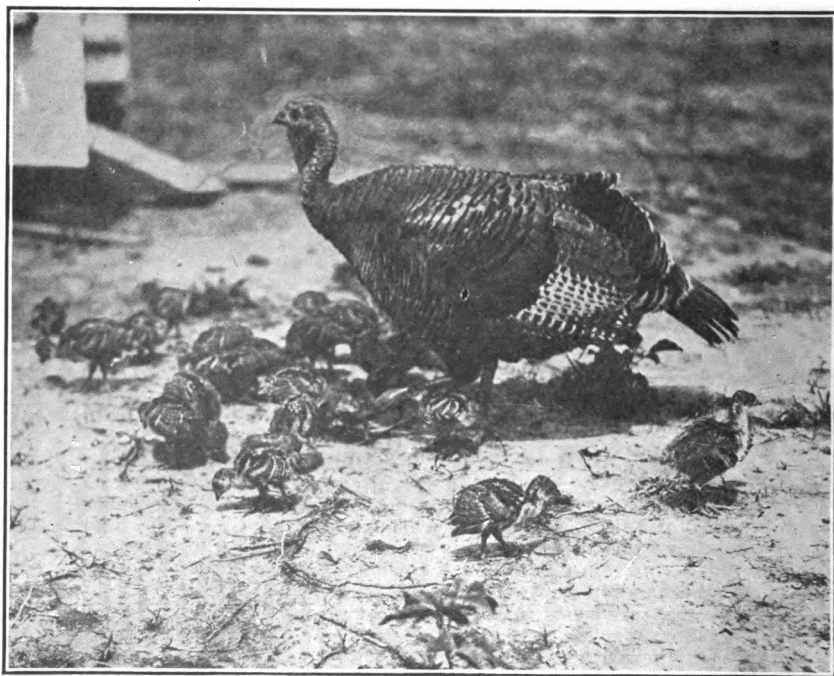
"No. By this time they are feasting on wheat and grasshoppers and will hardly eat anything you offer them. I teach my turkeys to eat whole corn just as soon as they will take it and give them some every day." Jennie Ferry.

"A little cracked corn, wheat and oats is fed; as they approach maturity, whole corn will do, but too much corn is not good for them. I have not found this a critical time." J. D. McClintic.

"Free range and a little food at night. They will be gone in the morning before you are out of bed. If they have plenty of range and a turkey mother, they will need no feed at night. When they get their beads and new feathers, I think the critical period is passed." S. M. Price.

"We get the best results from letting our turkeys care for themselves from the time they are turned loose at two weeks old until they return to the buildings in the late fall. We do not see them for weeks at a time." Mrs. L. J. Mullock.

"This is a bad time for turkeys if the weather is cold and wet for any length of time. We drive the turkeys up at evening and feed them cracked corn and wheat sparingly. They soon get used to this and come up after a few nights without further trouble." H. W. Fairall.



A turkey hen is a better mother to young poults than a chicken hen.

## PROVIDE FOR RANGE.

By all means, give your turkeys free range, otherwise, you will have more or less trouble. Turkeys cannot be confined but for a limited time, so if you cannot give them any range at all, you had just as well give up the idea of growing turkeys. However, if you have a limited range and can give your turkeys, say, half the range they usually require, it will be a wise plan to provide plenty of grit and charcoal for their use, as turkeys possibly consume more grit than almost any other fowl. Young turkeys cannot stand close confinement. If you confine turkeys, you are compelled to feed something that will take the place of insects and animal food and we know of no other artificial food that will fill these requirements as fully as clabbered milk or cheese, but it must be fed very sparingly.

## BROODING YOUNG TURKEYS.

Never place the turkey hen in a coop in order to keep turkeys confined, but let the mother turkey run at will and use some twelve or fourteen-inch boards fourteen feet in length and make a square pen for them to run in and let the hen remain free as she will always remain close to the turkeys. It would be almost impossible to drive her from them. Keep the poults in this enclosure for a few days, when they can be released. Give them all the range possible and feed just as little as possible. Should your poults contract bowel trouble, decrease the feed and feed a small feed of boiled rice, to which has been added black pepper enough to make the rice take on a light gray color. If possible, feed the turkeys as much natural food as you can get, such as meat scraps and green foods. If you can give the poults free range with a good turkey mother and never feed at all, they will be much better off. The turkey is naturally a wild fowl. This wild nature of feeding on insects and worms will never be bred out of them, and the more we can give them the privilege of using this wild habit in procuring their food and the less artificial food, the more turkeys and better specimens we can raise. The best and largest flocks which are produced are brooded with turkey hens and allowed to range over the fields for food. One of the best flocks we ever saw was raised without a mouthful of food being given them.

## LICE ARE DEATH TO TURKEYS.

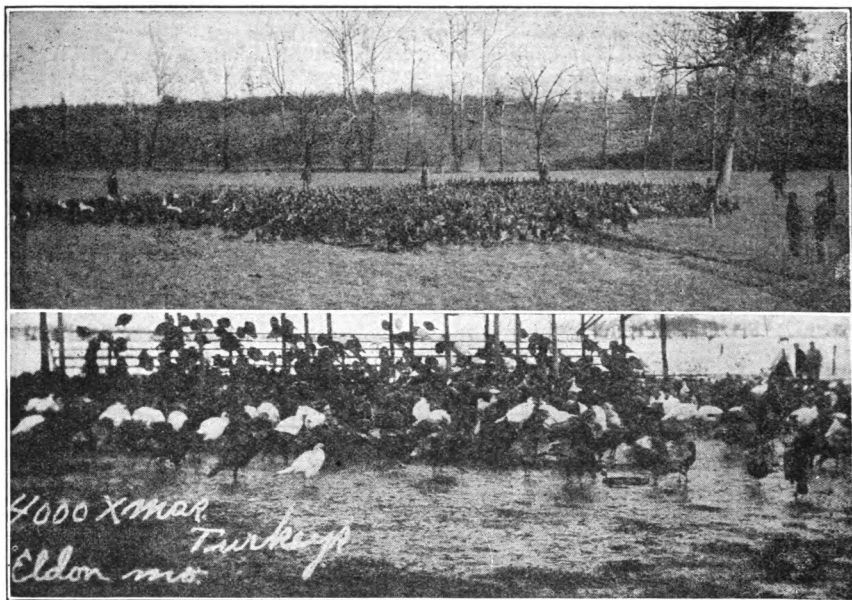
Lice is the worst thing to contend with in growing turkeys. Some seasons they are worse than others, we find. If the weather is a little damp it is very hard to keep the turkeys free from lice, but if the weather should be dry, then the dusting of the poults in the fields or road will almost keep them free from lice. We use and recommend London Purple on the turkey mothers for lice on both old and the young poults. At night ruffle up the feathers of the mother on her back and fluff and carefully sprinkle the poison on the fluffy feathers of the back, and no more lice will appear until time takes all the strength away. We use the treatment every week and are not bothered with lice. Remember, that this medicine is very poisonous and will kill the poults as quickly as the lice should you use too much or get any of the poison on the ground or feeding boards where the poults would come in contact with the poison. The London Purple, if used with precaution and good judgment, will never result in disaster and death to the poults, but will save them and kill every louse. The turkeys grow off nicer and make much better growth when free from lice. We find that the majority of poults that die are fed to death or killed by lice, hence, do not overfeed, and free the hens of lice by using London Purple in a judicious manner. Remember to use this sparingly or else you will more than likely kill every poult.

## FALL FEEDING AND CARE OF TURKEYS.

As all turkeys grown are not for breeding purposes, we must get the turkeys we expect to market in prime condition prior to the Thanksgiving markets. Thanksgiving usually gives us the best markets. While this is true as a rule, yet sometimes Christmas gives us the best market. However, as we cannot foresee the future, it would be best to get the turkeys in prime condition in time for the Thanksgiving market, then if the market is looking favorable a few days before the market closes for the Thanksgiving trade, we crowd the turkeys to the utmost in order to have them as fat



as possible. It is the excessive fat which makes you money. If we see the market for Thanksgiving is going to be overdone, we discontinue the heavy feeding and tide the turkeys over until the Christmas market opens, then feed all they will eat for about ten days before selling them. Ten days is just about as long as we could ever feed turkeys heavily. Longer periods than that result in bowel trouble and death. Some feeders claim turkeys "get ripe" and then you must sell or they will go down, lose in flesh and vitality. There is more truth than fiction in this statement, as a turkey is very tender and cannot stand any great amount of over fat any great length of time. We begin feeding the young turkeys for market in a mild way about the first of October. At this time we feed both morning and night, but never more than they will clean up quickly. We would rather a turkey would go out for the day's ramble hungry, than to have it over fed. Some of the most successful turkey growers claim that the reason we have and hear of so much bowel trouble and "Black Head" in the fall is because we feed too much, or the turkeys get too much green corn which has been blown down. Generally, the latter is responsible for the majority of deaths.



Four thousand turkeys being driven to market. This shows the extent of turkey growing in some sections.

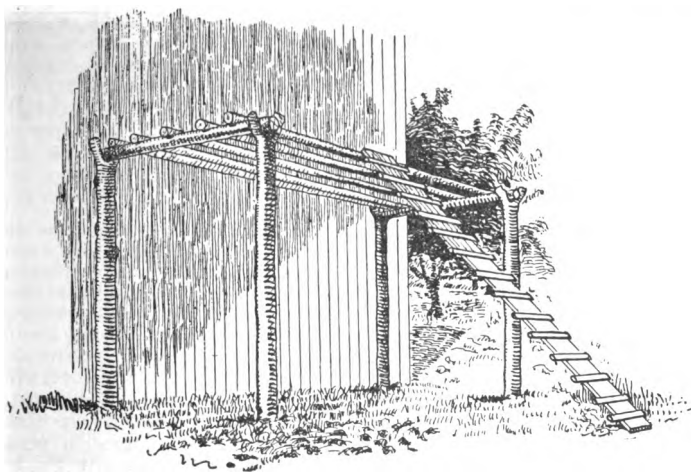
When we first begin to feed our turkeys, we try to use a little common sense and feed lightly for at least ten days, or until the turkeys have become accustomed to heavy feeding, and then we gradually increase the food until we have them on full feed. Our first feeding consists of heavy oats and wheat, gradually merging into corn as the weather gets colder, as too much corn, while the weather is yet warm, proved destructive to turkeys. After the weather becomes cold, we feed largely on corn. Old corn should be used in every instance as new corn has a tendency to produce bowel trouble and when fed exclusively will result in severe liver trouble, killing in some cases practically every turkey. We have known whole flocks being ruined by the owner being too anxious to have his turkeys plump and fat at Thanksgiving. If you will feed small grains as a starter and gradually merge into feeding old corn, and alternate with your smaller grains, you will have your turkeys in prime condition by Thanksgiving. We use a great amount of charcoal for our turkeys, and you would be surprised at the

amount they will eat during a season. We find it is one of the greatest things to aid digestion ever fed a turkey. They like it and will eat of it freely. They are not bothered so much with bowel trouble when charcoal is used freely. Many people will and do advocate penning turkeys in a close pen when feeding begins, but a greater mistake could never be made, in our opinion. We have given this method of feeding a fair trial, time after time, and under every favorable condition, and find it a complete failure in practically every case. Give your feeders all the range they wish and you will find they will do much better, fatten faster and escape the severe slump in weight which is sure to come when you pen them to feed. Many people, to our personal knowledge, have fed their turkeys for weeks in close confinement and the turkeys gradually lost weight every day and they could not understand the cause. Whenever we attempted to feed turkeys in confinement they would refuse to eat, soon show signs of bowel trouble or other digestive derangements, and the whole flock would decrease in weight and vitality. We find that in the fall, when the weather is cold or cool, the turkeys will eat freely of morning and then range around a few yards from the building and search for grit and other little choice morsels of food to add variety and to make their food digest well, then come back to some building for a windbreak, and sit down contented until the middle of the evening, when they will take another ramble in search of green food, grits, etc. All this goes a long way towards paving the way for perfect health and adds fat faster than when you attempt to confine them. We have seen some few try penning and feeding and have good results, but where one will escape, hundreds will fall victim to the many fatal ills that go with yard feeding.

### ROOSTING SHEDS FOR TURKEYS.

Expensive housing for turkeys is not required as is true with some varieties of poultry, but it is advisable to provide a shelter to protect them from the rain and wind. A shed may be built ten fee square or larger if required. Posts, which are nine feet long, may be sunk in the ground and then made level and square cut at the top. The distance from the ground to the top of the posts should be about eight feet.

On these posts should be built a double pitch roof with gable ends, the roof slanting in two directions. The rafters should be covered so as to make the roof rain and wind proof, and a space about two feet below the eaves of the house should be boarded up. The gable ends of the shed should also be boarded down from the roof to within six feet of the ground. This would then leave an open space entirely surrounding the house, six feet in width. Five roost poles can then be provided in this upper boarded section



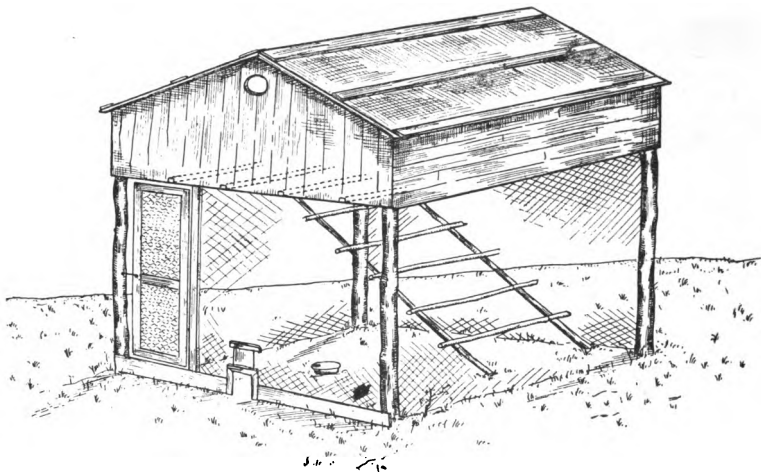
Turkeys should be required to roost on the fence, in the trees, or in an outside roosting place built against a barn or building, similar to the above illustration.

of the shed which should run the entire length of the house and be spaced about two feet apart. In the center of the house, running from the ground to the roost poles, should be a ladder about four feet wide and made from cut poles, the poles being placed one, two, three, four and five feet from the ground. This enables the birds to reach the upper roosts without any difficulty whatever. A large door should be built in one end of the house so as to admit the attendant and also a door about two feet square should be made as an exit for the turkeys. The space between the poles, which is not boarded up, should be covered with poultry netting.

When the severe cold and damp weather of the fall months begins, it is advisable to entice the growing turkeys to this enclosure and they can be confined there for a day or two until they learn to take the roosts. Following that they will usually come to this place each night. If they do not return voluntarily they can be driven back to roost, and in that case it is usually best to give them their evening meal on the inside of the enclosure. Their evening meal should always be given either in or near this roosting shed. Even the young turkeys with the mother hen may be trained to take to this roosting shed when quite young.

### **NO HOUSING REQUIRED BUT WINDBREAKS ARE BENEFICIAL.**

The turkeys that are intended for breeders should have range every day and allowed to roost outside at night except when the weather is very severe. Many seem to suppose that turkeys require shelter at night the same as chickens, but such is not the case. The healthiest turkeys are allowed to roost out in the trees, away from buildings. We seldom find a turkey with roup, when they are allowed to use the trees for roosting places. The colder the night, the higher they go. If you wish to introduce roup in your turkeys, just let them roost in the hen house a few nights and you will soon find them suffering with some form of roup of which there are many. If a



A shed or roosting quarters which should be built for turkeys. See text for further description of the roosting shed.

turkey can shelter out of the wind it can stand almost any kind of weather. We notice our turkeys as soon as the wind begins to blow severely, will hunt for shelter around the buildings, but not until then do we attempt to give the turkeys shelter in the buildings. If the weather continues cold and windy, we drive them in the houses and allow them a comfortable place until the blizzard is over. Cold does not affect the turkeys, but wind is undesirable it seems. Healthy turkeys can only be obtained by careful management. They will tell you in a way what they will require, if you study their requirements daily. The turkey is a fowl which is easily grown and with but little expense if you manage them properly.

To house turkeys continually usually results in stunted turkeys. They

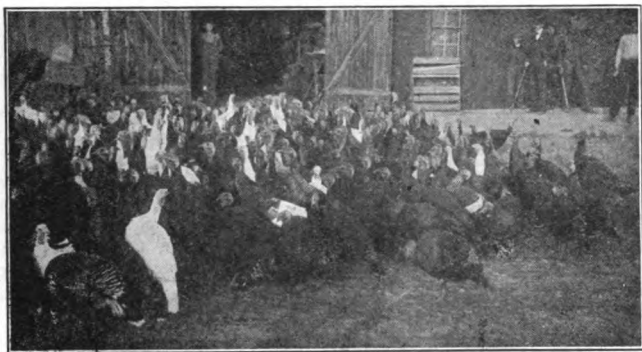
are a fowl which require a great amount of fresh air. The more fresh air the turkeys get the healthier they will be.

### **DISEASES OF TURKEYS AND THE PROPER LOCATION FOR THEM.**

Our experience with turkeys has been that diseases seldom ever appear except through impaired digestion or by inbreeding or because of weakened vitality caused by lice. Inbreeding possibly is the result of more diseased turkeys indirectly than almost any other one cause. If your turkeys become temporarily sick you can build up the constitution and remove the cause of the trouble and cure many of the complaints. Where the turkeys have become thoroughly broken down by constant inbreeding, you cannot do much for them. You had almost as well use the ax on all those that show low vitality and general weakness. Procure new blood at least every second year, birds that you are positive are not close kin to your present flock and you will escape many of the troubles turkeys fall heir to.

### **KEEP TURKEYS IN SMALL FLOCKS.**

Do not attempt to keep many turkeys in one flock. We never attempt to grow more than seventy-five to one hundred head on one farm. You can handle a small flock much better than a large one. If you wish to grow



Hundreds of turkeys raised in one community by a number of farmers being driven to market in one common flock.

larger numbers, farm some of your eggs or stock out and get some of your neighbors to grow a flock under your own direction. Large flocks of 500 or more are grown in the West, where the country is new, but in the old settled sections where the land is new, free from any disease, they can be grown there in great numbers. They can be grown here, more easily on large farms where there have never been turkeys grown, but where turkeys are grown year after year, you will notice the number of poults will diminish with each succeeding season, unless every precaution is taken. We would not advise attempting over seventy-five or a hundred a season, and you will usually have less disease, less trouble and more profit.

### **PREVENTING COLDS.**

Colds often develop in a flock that is housed every night, regardless of the weather. When the poults are allowed to roost out in the open, colds and roup seldom appear, unless the place has become diseased by chickens having the roup.

### **WHAT CAUSES SO-CALLED "BLACK HEAD."**

The so-called "Black Head" of which you have heard so much is conceded by some of the best turkey breeders to be simply "impaired digestion," brought about by heavy feeding. Examine a flock of turkeys that are heavily fed on fat-producing foods, or allowed to range in the "down" corn, and eat freely of unmaturing corn in the fall, and you usually find a flock suffering with so-called "Black Head." You will seldom ever find a flock of turkeys suffering with any form of bowel trouble that were allowed to

pick up their living from range and not fed fat-producing foods or allowed to eat freely of corn, green or dry. Corn is very fattening and will fatten a turkey quickly, and as soon as a turkey is well fattened, if it is not marketed and is retained and continued to be fed, it will soon show signs of disease and death is certain.

### **PREVENTION OF BLACK HEAD.**

We think the best method of preventing this disease is to keep the turkeys on fresh sod and to give them an abundance of free range. They should be kept out of corn fields when the corn is just in the milk or not matured and they should also be kept out of oat stubble or oat fields.

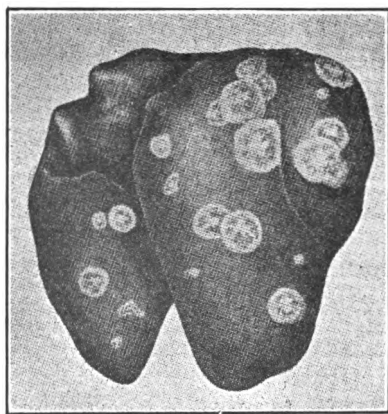
If a poultry man recognizes this disease he should immediately isolate all affected birds. The great danger lies in the fact that turkeys so affected have as a rule been spreading the germ through their droppings and these germs may have been carried about the premises on the feet of careless poultrymen or by rats, sparrows or other birds or animals that may have visited the infected yards.

Sick birds should be kept on a board floor and droppings covered with lime and removed and buried. All dead birds should be destroyed by burning the carcass. All yards and feeding places should be covered with air slacked lime and then the soil plowed or cultivated.

### **TREATMENT OF BLACK HEAD.**

Thus far no successful treatment has been discovered. If the affected birds are to be kept they should be confined to a dry, comfortable place and given soft foods consisting principally of bread soaked in milk, boiled wheat or rice.

It is said that the parasites of this disease are found in turkeys that are apparently healthy and the only difference between the healthy bird and the sick individual is that the parasites are not numerous in the first case and do not appear to any marked extent in the tissues, while in the diseased birds the parasites are present in such great numbers that a bird is not able to throw them off and death follows. The reason that the parasites get a foot hold and tissues break down in one case and not in another is perhaps due more to the feeding than any other one cause.



Liver of turkey with Black Head, showing diseased areas. (Modified from Moore.)

Either the method of caring for or feeding or some other cause has brought about the condition of the intestinal tract, which is favorable to the parasites and caused them to develop and invade the tissues in great numbers, while in the healthy turkey the parasites have been held in subjection because the normal intestines have been antagonistic to their development. The avoiding of the parasites does not make the disease impossible. Giving the birds doses of intestinal antiseptics will not eliminate the parasites to any great extent. The big problem is to so feed and care for your turkeys and

keep them under such favorable conditions that the parasites are restricted in their development. Those who know how to feed their turkeys successfully and how to best care for them are the ones who are able to avoid this dreaded disease.

### POST-MORTEM APPEARANCE OF BLACK HEAD

The Kentucky Experiment Station states the following:

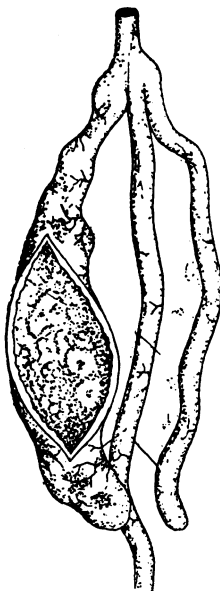
"It is important that an autopsy be made when black head is suspected. The absence of a dark purple color of the head is not a criterion to be relied upon. The liver and caeca should be examined because these two organs are primarily affected in black head. If the disease exists, marked changes from the normal will be easily recognized and preventive measures to check the spread of the disease to the healthy birds should be resorted to at once.

"The Caeca—The caeca are two in number and can be differentiated from the other parts of the intestines by their ending in blind pouches. They become enlarged in black head and sometimes the enlargement is extended the full length of the caeca; at other times the wall bulges in small areas and presents a yellowish, cheesy appearance from the outside. Normally the caeca are smooth and no larger in diameter than the branch of the intestine which lies between the caeca and opens in common at the base. If the contents are of a liquid nature, particles of yellowish material are frequently found afloat in the lumen. The wall of the caeca becomes thickened and in severe cases the inflammation extends to the outer covering, resulting in peritonitis and adhesion of the caeca to the adjoining tissue. This condition may be observed in the chronic form of the disease, rarely in the early stages of the more acute type.

"The Liver—The liver manifests marked pathological changes which can scarcely be overlooked. It is greatly enlarged, depending upon the extent of the infection, sometimes two or three times its normal size. From the discoloration of the liver the disease is sometimes known as "spotted liver." The spots vary in size, are of a yellowish green color, and present the appearance of concentric wings which is very characteristic of black head.

### PREVENTION AND CONTROL

"The contagious nature of black head makes it necessary to employ



Portion of lower intestine of turkey, with Caeca. (Modified from Moore.) The caecum on the right is represented as normal, and that on the left, which is cut open to show the interior, is diseased. In the advanced stages of Black Head you will find the Caeca destroyed by the parasites and even the walls of the intestines adjoining will be partially destroyed.

prompt measures of isolation and segregation. Sick birds contaminate houses and runways and the immediate removal of healthy hens and poults

to clean quarters is essential. Affected birds should be killed and cremated immediately, as they continue to intensify the existing infection. It is important that the healthy birds do not remain in the same house or come in contact with fowls of any age that have access to infected premises. A common mistake in the control of infectious diseases of poultry and other farm animals is the removal of the sick to isolated quarters, allowing the healthy animals to remain exposed to the infected premises.

"The houses, roosting places, and runways should be thoroughly cleansed. First remove all litter from the coops and houses and spray with lime water containing five per cent carbolic acid. The runways should be raked up and cleansed by scattering slaked lime on the ground surface. All litter, straw and refuse accumulated from cleaning should be burned.

"On farms where poultry range at large, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected quarters should be provided for the healthy flocks to insure against possible existing infection. Soft feeds should be fed, excluding corn as a part of the ration. In the chronic or slow form of the disease, sour milk should be supplied in liberal amounts. It must be given in the early stages of the disease to the infected as well as exposed birds, as otherwise it may not always exert a beneficial effect. When sour milk is not available it is advisable to provide a solution of muriatic acid in the drinking water. Various amounts of this acid have been used, but the proportion of one teaspoonful to one quart of water has proven unharmed and has been followed by the most favorable result. A porcelain or earthen container should be provided for this purpose. As before stated, chickens are not often affected, yet in the virulent form the disease may spread to chickens, resulting fatally. To avoid possible loss in fowls they must be protected from exposure and subsequent infection."

#### **GOOD GENERAL TREATMENT FOR TURKEY AILMENTS.**

When we have a turkey that shows signs of bowel trouble we promptly catch it and give it a dose of the following: Hypo-sulphite of sodium, 3 grains; sulphate of iron, 1 grain; sulphur, 10 grains; and sulphate of quinine, 1 grain. This treatment should be given every four and a half hours during the day until the turkey is improved. Then three times a day. Provide plenty of water for turkeys to drink at will, while you are giving this treatment. Avoid heavy feeding of grains. A light ration may be given of wheat or wheat bran and a small amount of corn meal mixed into a soft mash. Feed but very little and as soon as the turkey shows signs of activity turn it out on grass and it will soon become normal again.

#### **BEST LOCATION FOR TURKEYS AND TREATMENT FOR ROUP.**

Turkeys will always do best on hilly or rolling land. Swampy ground is unfit for turkeys as they cannot stand damp or wet weather or a swampy location of any kind. You can often overcome roup by cutting an incision just below the eye, where the nostrils swell and then press the mucous out thoroughly and wash the wound freely with water to which has been added a few drops of carbolic acid or creolin. We use equal parts creolin and water. After the wound is thoroughly cleaned, fill the opening with common table salt or powdered alum and you seldom have any more trouble with that case.

#### **ANOTHER TREATMENT FOR LICE.**

If you have never experienced lice on young turkeys, it is because you have never looked carefully for them. It is easy to overcome the lice proposition. If you are prejudiced against the use of London Purple for your poults, then drive them into some coop, house or pen so they may be easily, gently and quickly handled, and next seat yourself where you will be comfortable. Take up a poult and examine it and in the flight feathers and in between the web of feathers, you may find a large assembly of lice. Dip the end of your finger in a bit of lard which has been provided and rub in the web of the feathers of the wing. Spread it out carefully the entire width of the flight feathers. This will get every louse. Place a small drop just below the vent. Examine and treat the head the same way. Drop your treated turkey down, so that it can go to the mother. Reach your hand through the trap door of your box and catch another turkey and proceed as before. You can eliminate every louse very quickly, by using this method,



and it saves giving the mother hen a fright and does not worry the turkeys. We treat our turkeys for lice every week. When we use lard or grease of any kind we are very careful to use but little, as grease will kill the turkeys as quickly as the lice if too much is used. We never use grease until the turkeys are three weeks of age as the treatment is often sure death to younger turkeys. When we use London Purple for lice, we sprinkle it in the plumage of the mother turkey, on the back directly below the fluffy feathers of the back. Great caution is used not to allow the poison to come in contact with their food, as this too is sure death to the turkeys if they get the least part of it in their crops. If you get too much on the hen, the poults will inhale too much and death is certain in that instance. Almost any poisonous remedy for lice is quite risky with turkeys, but if you are an experienced grower and have used these treatments you can successfully handle them. If you are an amateur, we would advise you to use lard for lice as it is not quite so dangerous. We prefer to use any louse eradicator at night as it will have a greater effect than when used in the day time. When you use the lard treatment see that the turkeys do not get wet, and are not exposed to the hot sun. Keep them in a shade where they can be comfortable as the grease on a hot day has a tendency to penetrate the skin too much and cause weakness, often death.

### **KEEP YOUNG TURKEYS FROM OAT FIELDS.**

We have lost a great many young turkeys and have seen entire flocks lost, where they were allowed to run or range in a field of oats. Either the immature oats themselves or something which the turkeys come in contact with in the oat fields cause them to become sick and die. It seems to have this effect on turkeys that are from one to four months old. You may give them the best of care and feed, but if they are allowed to range in an oat field, they will begin to droop and die.

### **TREATMENT OF TURKEY DISEASES.**

In treating chicken pox, roup, limber neck or crop bound we would recommend about the same treatment, which has been recommended for the cure and prevention of these diseases in other varieties of poultry.

Turkeys should not be allowed to range over ground used by chickens or ducks and if given their liberty and provided with roosting places there is not much liability of the turkeys contracting any serious ailments after they are two months old. The two greatest dangers from that time on in my opinion are the fatal results from lice and the disease commonly known as black head.

Turkeys are generally conceded to be the most difficult to raise of all poultry. In their natural state they are healthy and hard, but in confinement they seem to become an easy prey to disease and the mortality in domesticated turkeys is often very great.

A wooded pasture or an old sod is preferable to cultivated fields for ranging or yarding turkeys. If they are permitted to have same runs with chickens they easily contract the same diseases and the mortality in young turkeys is very great as a result.

### **TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PREVENTION OF TURKEY DISEASES.**

If turkeys have plenty of range on fresh ground, and sensible care, there is no reason why anyone should have great difficulty in raising them. Mrs. Helen Dow Whittaker is the author of ten commandments for the prevention of disease:

1. Never feed on the ground where food may be left to ferment, sour or mould, and later be eaten.
2. Never over-feed, especially of egg or mash. Remember that in a wild state turkeys are more often hungry than not.
3. After two weeks of age in good weather, let the hens take the poults and go. They do not need coddling, but they do need protection from weather, beasts of prey, etc.
4. Keep the poults and their coops free from lice. Use Persian insect powder to dust them or a drop of olive oil on the head, at the quill of the wing feathers, and around the vent.

5. For a tendency toward bowel trouble feed boiled rice. Bowel trouble indicates improper feeding or exposure to dampness, cold, or both.

6. Do not permit poults to run over ground which chickens, pigs, ducks, geese, etc., have made filthy. Plow up such ground or keep the poults yarded away from it.

7. When the poults have been chilled or seem droopy and need a tonic, make it as follows: Boil a pint of milk, put in it a shake of red pepper, add a tablespoonful of alcohol; then beat up a raw egg and add to the mixture. Use this to moisten the bran mash. A little finely chopped lean meat may be added.

8. Use greed food finely cut in quantity in all rations as an aid to digestion.

9. Be especially watchful of the poults when at about six weeks of age, they "shoot the red," that is, begin to grow the protuberances on the head and neck. The danger is of the blood flowing back upon the heart and becoming stagnant, the intestines become clogged and inflammation and diarrhea follow. The following treatment will prove helpful: Mix one tablespoonful of red pepper and two tablespoonfuls of wheat middlings with water and make into four pills—bake hard. Give one pill three times a day to a full grown turkey or a smaller one in proportion to size of fowl. Follow with a tablespoonful of castor oil for the old turkey or a teaspoonful for a young poul.

10. Call the turkeys home to roost by feeding them a little grain every night.

### CAPONIZING TURKEYS.

The turkey male can be caponized but it has not been found necessary or so practical to do this in the case of turkeys as with chickens. Caponizing, however, adds to the quality of the flesh of the male and the birds become much quieter and are more easily gotten into condition for the Thanksgiving market. The birds do not range over such a wide area. There is a trifle more danger in caponizing turkeys than there is in the case of chickens.

### WHAT IS MOST CRITICAL AGE?

What is the most critical age for young turkeys and what special care should be given them at that time. It might be wise to let a dozen successful breeders answer this question for you, which they do as follows:

"From hatching time to about six or eight weeks old, and when about half grown. Keep them where it is dry, give dry food, grit, and water. If on range, let the hen alone." H. W. Fairall.

"From four weeks to two months. Feed to avoid liver trouble (if you know how, I don't) and keep lice off not allowing them out in drenching rains." Jennie Ferry.

"When the new grain is being harvested. Keep them away from it." Mrs. Laura Kunkle.

"When they are getting the red beads around their necks and their new tail feathers. They need at this time nourishing food. They should have mixed grain, plenty of grasshoppers and free range." S. M. Price.

"'Shooting the red' is the most critical age. We have no trouble with our turkeys on free ranges." Mrs. L. J. Mullock.

"When they begin to 'shoot the red.' If given free range and plenty of water to drink, are not overfed and kept free from lice, much sickness is avoided." Geo. Wolf.

"From the time they are hatched until they are three months old. Keep them free from lice." A. J. Kreutter.

"Some years ago, I considered that if a turkey lived six weeks or two months that he would live unless killed in some way. Now that black head is infecting this part of the country, one is never sure of them, as grown fowls sometimes die of this disease as well as young birds at any time from six weeks to maturity. I endeavor to keep their liver in good condition by the use of onion tops, garlic, watercress, lettuce, etc., and once in a while

give them a mixed food of ground grains with sweet oil or olive oil in it as a laxative." Bertha M. Tyson.

"They are liable to bowel trouble at all times, but are less troubled with diseases during cold dry weather. Avoid over-feeding at all times." Shepard Bros.

"The first three days and from the sixth to the eighth week. First period, keep dry and quiet. Second period, keep free from lice and do not over-feed." A. E. Blaker.

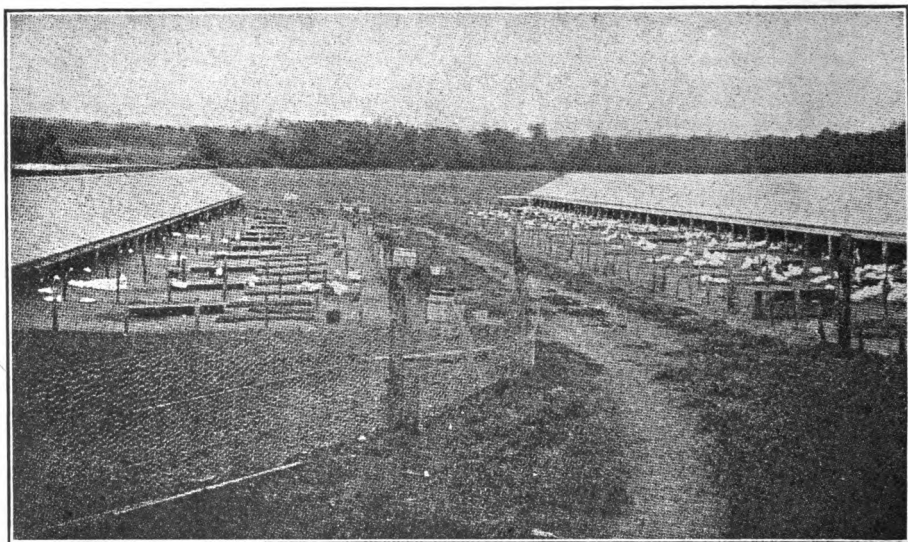
## QUESTIONS ON TURKEYS.

### LESSON NO. 33.

1. What has been the decrease in the turkey crop of the United States in the past ten years?
2. Name three varieties of turkeys which appear to be most popular?
3. What are the advantages of keeping only one variety of turkeys?
4. Which two of the eight vital points mentioned at the beginning do you consider the most important? Why?
5. Which is of the most importance in turkeys, size or color? Why?
6. Which is of most importance, size or vigor? Why?
7. What method would you pursue in building up a flock in size, weight and color?
8. How many females should be mated to one tom? What is the proper age for breeding stock?
9. What care should we take or what danger is there in feeding the breeding stock?
10. What is the best method of feeding mature turkeys?
11. Should turkeys be confined or allowed free range? Why?
12. How should they be managed at breeding time for best results?
13. Describe the best method of incubating turkey eggs, just as you would do it?
14. What is the best method of brooding the poults?
15. How should the young turkeys be fed?
16. What is the most common fault in feeding poults?
17. What kind of vermin is death to young turkeys and how can you rid the turkeys of it?
18. What sort of housing is required for turkeys?
19. How would you prevent and treat roup in turkeys?
20. Should young turkeys be allowed to range in oat fields?

## THE DUCK INDUSTRY.

Possibly, there is no branch of the poultry industry that is gaining more favor with the average poultryman than the duck industry. Ducks have come to stay, as the intelligent poultryman fully realizes the great popularity and enormous demand of this branch of poultry keeping. When the American farmers generally learn that ducks are practically immune from diseases, and at the same time as remunerative as other fowls, ducks will become more and more popular. Ten years ago, the duck industry was not ever thought of seriously by many, but now they are raised by the hundreds. Strange, yet true, until the last few years, seldom was there anything about ducks mentioned in the poultry journals. Many good people really did not know the real value of ducks. Some had the impression that they were merely for pleasure, others thought they were kept only for feathers, while some supposed they were kept on the farm for a curiosity. There are many farms today without ducks.



The long sheds used on one of the country's largest duck farms. These sheds are built simply to protect the growing and fattening ducks from the sun, rain and storm. You will note the feeding troughs in the yards. The fences are about two feet high. There is a roadway between the houses. A wagon, loaded with the feed, is driven down the roadway and the pens of ducks fed on each side.

There are few domesticated birds so free from disease or insect parasites as ducks if kept under reasonably sanitary conditions. Given health and vigor in the breeding stock, clean grassy runs and judicious care as to the food, there is no kind of poultry that will respond so quickly and profitably to good treatment. They are, however, equally susceptible to neglect, and failure to provide good quality food in variety or housing in damp filthy houses may result in heavy losses.

There has been much written of late years emphasizing the importance of fresh air in poultry raising. In housing ducks this is an absolute necessity. Cold will not affect them but the bad air of a closed house will invariably result disastrously, and wherever disease makes its appearance among ducks, the mortality is apt to be considerable. They require open front housing at all seasons.

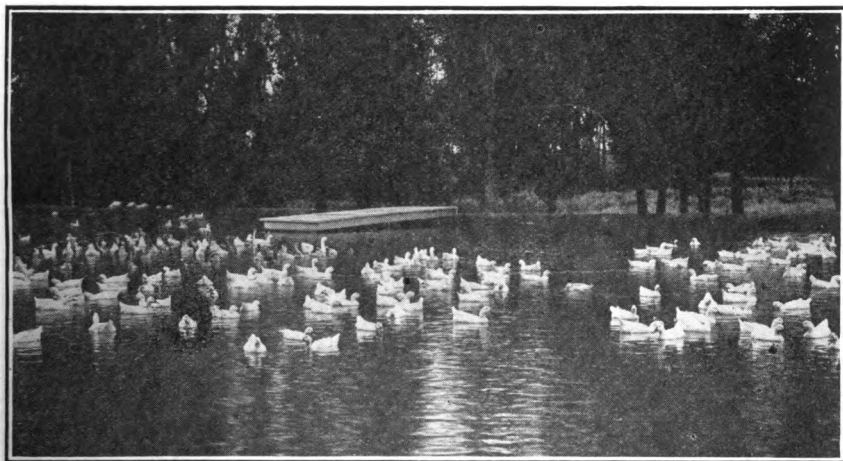
To prevent disease, use only sturdy, vigorous, well-matured specimens for breeding. A healthy breeding duck possesses a certain amount of disease resisting ability and where this is combined with common sense

judgment in care and feeding on the part of the breeder there will be very little tendency to disease.

Leg weakness, a common cause of trouble in ducklings is usually the result of a too highly concentrated food or from feeding such foods continuously. Over-feeding on rich food frequently induces lack of exercise and consequent digestive disturbances.

The duck has a natural capacity for getting pens and houses in a filthy condition. In a short time, unless care is used in removing left-over food or other filth, the houses and yards become sloppy and offensive. To avoid this condition, the water tanks should be cleaned daily, the feeding troughs scraped clean of left-over food before giving a fresh supply, the yards should receive frequent attention, raking them over occasionally and turning over the sod twice yearly, sowing to oats, rye, or other green stuff.

This is the best way of disinfecting the ground and at the same time



Ducks having their morning swim. Water is not a necessity in raising the young stock but is of great benefit to breeding stock. It is not necessary to have any great body of water for them even. Very often a small artificial concrete tank, filled by a hose, will answer every purpose.

supplies fresh food for young or old ducks. It is only by means of these precautions that healthy stock is maintained on large or small duck farms. It is impossible to conduct a successful business in duck growing without proper care and attention to such details.

We find that ducks as well as geese are now coming into more general use on every well regulated farm. There is a reason. It is not because they have become a fad, but because they have become more profitable. Of course, there is some lack of knowledge in regard to ducks, but this can be easily overcome as they are possibly the easiest fowl to raise.

For these reasons, the duck industry is certain to increase in popularity. Several large duck plants in the East are paying handsome dividends and the same is becoming true with a number in the Central West. The wholesale dealers and packers of market poultry are calling for ducks as the demand from the better class of hotels, restaurants, cafes, dining cars and wealthy families is rapidly on the increase.

The fact that but little fencing and not a great deal of experience, housing or equipment is required, and the fact that ducks are not so subject to lice and disease as some other kinds of poultry, makes it an attractive business to some. Ducks require more feed than chickens and do not lay as many eggs as a rule. For these reasons it is best to sell market ducks when they are about three months old, except those intended for breeding purposes. Ducks should not be allowed to run with turkeys or chickens, or eat from the same hoppers or drink from the same pans.

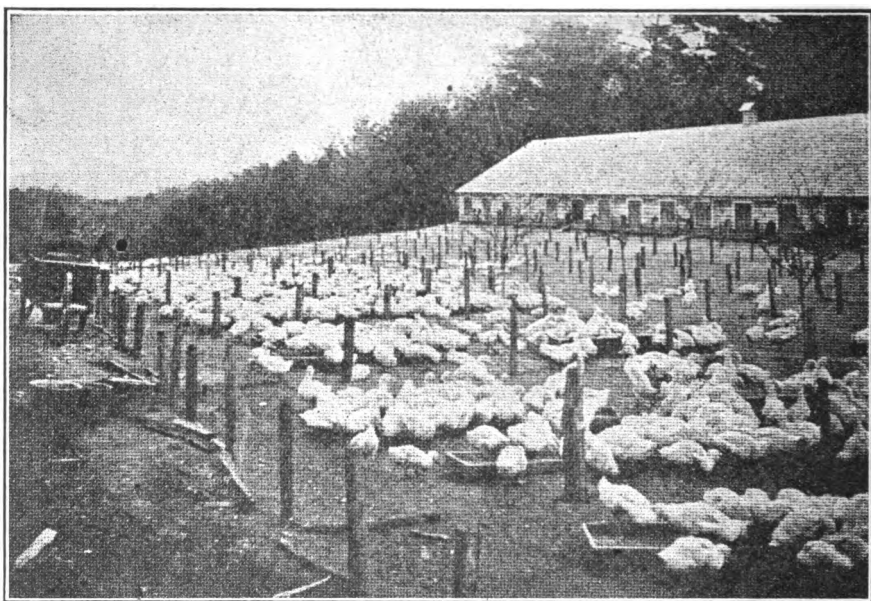
## THE ADVANTAGES OF THE DUCK BUSINESS.

The bright side in duck raising is that a low fence will confine them. A shed with dry straw is as good a house as they want. Lice, mites and roup do not bother them. Their feathers are worth 50 cents to 65 cents per pound. Their eggs are better to cook for some purposes than hen eggs. All the white egg strain that lay pure white eggs are worth five cents a dozen more on some markets than hen eggs.

Duck feathers may be made a source of profit. They command a high price and are almost as good, if not equal, to goose feathers.

### LOCATION FOR DUCKS.

The most important thing is to locate near a good market and use proper methods. Any farmer that has a plot of ground which is unfit for anything else, often has just the place for ducks. A swampy piece of land which is unfit for farming makes a great place for ducks after they are grown, but not a good place for ducklings. We have seen a side hill, full of cliffs and rocks, devoted to ducks. To our surprise, several hundred head were raised there each year. It seemed to be just the place for them, as it was dry and a most desirable location on the upland for the brood coops and roosting rooms, while the low swampy bottom land that was fenced off in connection with this plot, was an ideal place for the ducks to range through the day. The ducks on this place never had rheumatism and little or no sickness.



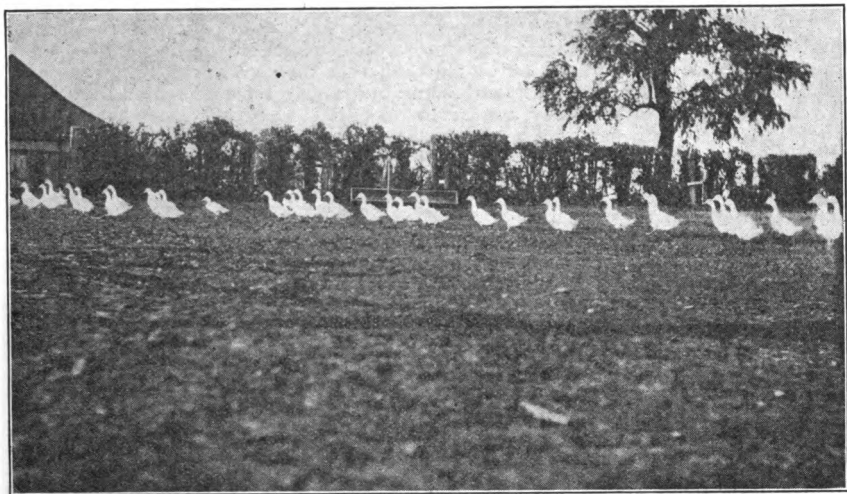
A brooder house on a large duck farm showing the small runs built out from the house. The ducklings are kept here until they are large enough to be transferred to the growing and fattening pens or sheds.

There is any amount of waste land that could be devoted to duck culture with profit. Some put up the excuse that ducks consume too great a quantity of food, but that is imaginary for ducks on range will not consume any more food than chickens, but in growing or maturing ducks, they make so much more rapid growth than any other fowl that they naturally consume more food. It will seldom pay to keep or feed market ducks longer than three months. Ducks thrive under circumstances which chickens could not stand. While this is true, ducks cannot endure unnecessary exposure, but will live and do well where chickens will not. The development and im-

provement of the methods of marketing during the past few years forms a most interesting chapter in the history of poultry keeping. Many duck plants that have a yearly output of 5,000 head or more cannot fill their orders.

### **DEMAND FOR DUCK EGGS.**

There is an increasing demand for duck eggs. Duck eggs are valuable for baking. Some cafes use more duck eggs than hen eggs because they are larger than hen eggs. The demand for duck eggs is sure to develop more rapidly than one would naturally suppose, who has never given the



Homeward bound after spending the day picking up most of their living from the range and along some stream.

subject any thought. The world is demanding more and better things, and just as soon as the average person finds out that duck eggs are really better for some purposes, they will demand them above all others.

### **PROPER AGE FOR BREEDING STOCK.**

We prefer the use of yearling or two-year-old ducks as breeders. Ducks less than one year old lay eggs which hatch weak ducklings as a rule. We use drakes which are nine months to two years old. We prefer large ducks for the variety they represent, but the males should not be too large and clumsy for best results.

### **FEEDING THE BREEDERS FOR FERTILE EGGS.**

In the first place, we must have first class breeding stock. It appears that inbreeding in ducks is tolerated more generally than with almost any other fowl, consequently, we find more inferior breeding stock from this cause than all others. Make your start with good sound breeding stock if possible, or if it is eggs, see that they come from non-related stock and the eggs will be more fertile. Eggs from inbred ducks are seldom ever fertile, and show signs of low vitality from the first.

### **BAD RESULTS IN OVER FEEDING.**

You should keep in mind one thing, and that is that the breeding stock can be over fed just the same as any other fowl but not quite so easily as chickens or turkeys, but they can be and are over-fed in many instances. We have carelessly or rather unintentionally over fed our breeding ducks, until they were almost a total loss to us. It will be well for you to take warning and escape this evil of over-feeding. It is true, ducks have a reputation of being great eaters; in fact many thoughtless duck breeders will tell you that you cannot over-feed growing ducks, but such is not the case. Such ducks can be over-fed. Of course, the growing duck is harder to over-

feed than the breeders, but it is useless to over-feed any of them as careful feeding will pay in every instance. Over-feeding will give you eggs from which a few weakly ducklings may be hatched, but such usually die before they are a week old. Ducks are as free from disease as any fowl but by over-feeding the breeding stock, they will appear out of condition, have dead, rough plumage, languid movements, and be more subject to sluggish livers, genuine roup and even cholera. Yes, all this and more, if you continue to over-feed them. It is against all this that we are to fight, if we get strong healthy ducklings from our breeders.

### **WATER BENEFICIAL TO BREEDERS.**

We like our breeders to have access to a body of water during mating time. Ducks are a natural water fowl and when the breeding season opens, they will do much better if tendered these natural requirements. Do not misunderstand, we do not want much water for the ducklings, but for the breeders only. They appear to do better, eggs are more fertile and they produce much better when they have access to water. It is true, hundreds of breeders are mated each season with reasonably good success that never see water except to drink, but from years of experience, we find the ducks mate much better when they have water and the eggs are more fertile. In addition to water, we want green rye, clover or some similar green food for the ducks to feed on. Ducks that have never been inbred and have "living water" to run to, with a strong rye patch to run over for green food, and fed a balance mash ration, will give you the best service possible. Eggs from ducks that are handled in this manner will hatch strong lively ducklings under any favorable circumstances.

### **DUCKS REQUIRE GREEN FOOD.**

Ducks in early spring must have green food. If you cannot have green food such as green growing rye, then prepare refuse cabbage or turnips. Turnips ground into a fine pulp, make a fine food for ducks. We like to feed it if available, no matter how much green rye our ducks have, for it seems to be a great egg producer. It is a hard matter to prepare a fine lot of turnips for the ducks in the fall, and a machine to grind them is easily obtained in the supply houses. The remuneration is great, especially if we have a large number to be fed.

### **COMFORTABLE QUARTERS FOR STORMY WEATHER.**

We mate from five to seven females to one male. This gives us the best results possible. Some of the large breeders mate eight or ten drakes to forty or fifty ducks in one breeding pen. We house our breeders at night and provide good comfortable bedding for them. Remember that ducks never go up on roosts, except the Muscovy, but sit down on the ground. For this reason, they should have good comfortable roosting quarters. We bed our duck quarters much the same as the swine-man beds his swine pens. At any and all events, we see that they have good comfortable quarters at night, or they will soon contract rheumatism and die. Wheat straw is the best for the ducks. Put a deep litter of straw in the duck house. No matter how cold it gets, the ducks will be warm. In severe cold weather many people lose their ducks. If you arrange for the ducks to get a square meal at night and have a dry, warm straw bedding so that they can keep their feet warm, they will stand as much cold as you will and more, but if the ducks suffer from cold feet, it soon injures them. A duck's "tender spot" is its feet and legs. If you can keep their feet warm, you will have but little trouble with ducks, but when they become chilled and exposed to the cold damp ground, night after night, they soon show signs of trouble. Where the climate is reasonably mild or uniform, but little housing is required.

### **HOUSES AND HOUSING.**

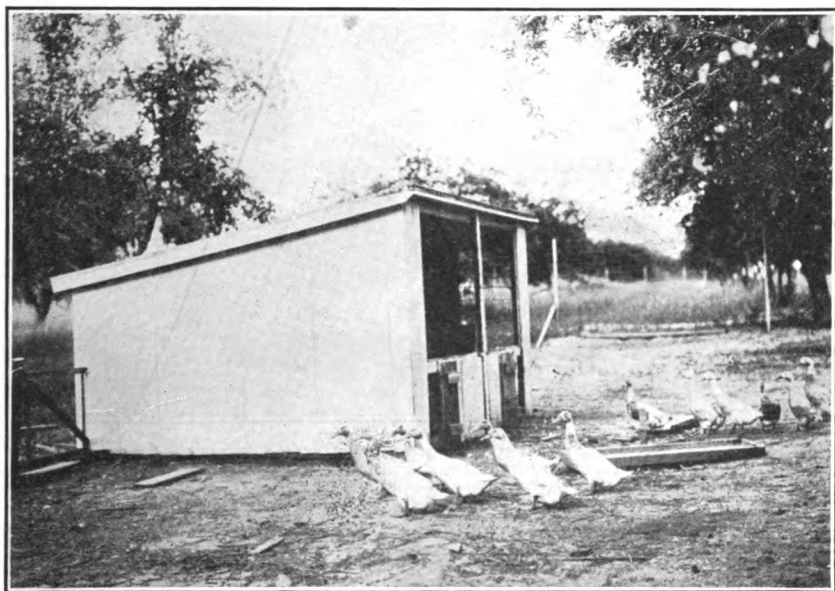
We have perfected some houses and coops which make the work easier. They help but are not a necessity. The houses for ducklings should be comfortable. We like to cover the floor with prepared roofing, also the roof, and board up three sides. Notice we mention floor first. Do not use a coop or house that will let air come up through the floor from underneath. Keep dry litter in coop; change often enough to keep it dry. A small yard



should be attached or connected with each coop unless the whole range given is small. Young ducklings will run too much if range is not restricted somewhat. A bluegrass lot is ideal. Do not leave the ducklings out in the rain if not full feathered just because they are ducks, for they get cramps and usually die as a result.

Old ducks need about the same conditions. The houses need not be expensive or so very warm. They must be dry with no draughts from underneath. A dirt floor is good. If you use a dirt floor it should be raised or filled in several inches higher than the ground on the outside. Straw makes good bedding. Litter in the laying house is essential. The ducks must be kept cooped up until about 9 A. M. when most all the eggs will be laid for that day. We have shallow nests but half the eggs are laid in the straw.

Ducks, both old and young, will let you know if you forget to feed them on time, or crowd or otherwise make them uncomfortable at night. A bunch of growing ducklings will soon fill a coop so full they can not lie down. Keep the house large enough and as the youngsters grow, separate them into smaller flocks. When they are noisy at night, usually something is wrong.

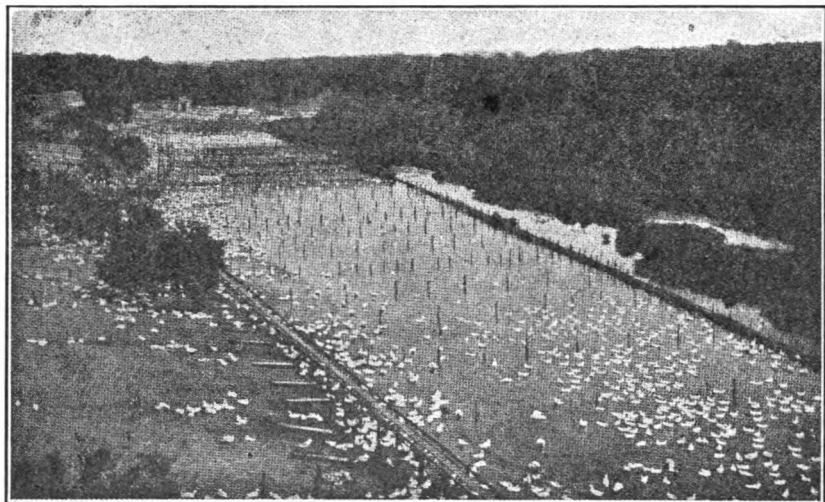


Ducks do not require much housing. They need a shelter on high, dry ground. A cheap shed roof house like the above is splendid for young ducks or for the breeding stock.

### **BODY OF WATER NOT DETRIMENTAL, NEITHER IS IT A NECESSITY.**

By all means, ducks kept for breeding purposes should have a swimming pool, a pond, a brook or plenty of water on which to mate. You will have much better fertility and better hatches. You can raise ducks without a running stream of water, a pond, or a lake, but the vessels from which they drink should be deep enough for them to bury their beaks. We think it a mistaken idea that a stream of water, a pond or lake are detrimental to growing water fowl, and that they should not be allowed to have access to that much water. In the wild state where the ducks nest on the Northern lakes, the young spend much time on the water. We know of a duck raiser who had some Pekin ducks which hid their nests some distance from the farm and the owner supposed they had been lost for good or something had killed them. He had occasion to be passing that way several weeks

later and to his surprise found the ducks with their young swimming out on the lake. The ducklings appeared to be about two days old. He decided not to disturb them and found when they had returned that they had outgrown his own ducks of the same age which he had raised and kept from the water. We allow all our water fowls to have access to water at any time. We have had no bad results thus far. They can be easily and very successfully raised without water, but if you have a stream or lake on your farm it is not objectionable for water fowl. In fact, it is beneficial to old ducks and reduces the feed bill with the younger ones, so do not get the idea that you must live on a river or some other place that affords a large body of water. Just such ideas as those hinder the business. Many people are afraid to venture into the duck business for fear they do not possess the natural facilities. Range and feed, with good drinking water, and plenty of sharp sand and grit are all you will require until you get the ducks well



One of the large duck farms on Long Island. Water to swim in is not necessary for the growing and fattening ducks, but the fertility of the eggs from breeding stock will be greatly increased if the breeders can get into a small body of water for even a short time each day. Notice the fences across the water, separating the different pens.

feathered. Thousands and thousands of ducks are raised each year that never saw a swimming hole. You can raise ducks to maturity and keep them until they have laid several eggs before you ever let them see a running stream.

### DUCK RATIONS.

Dr. Prince T. Woods, in his Poultryman's Formulary, recommends the following duck rations, all of which we have found to be good:

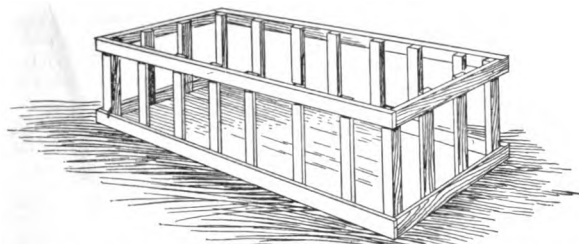
On many duck ranches the ducks are fed exclusively on moist mash food, on others on a combination of moist mash and dry grains. In this chapter are given the most satisfactory rations for young and old ducks.

#### New Jersey Duck Mash.

Wheat Bran.....	200 lbs. av.
Corn Meal.....	100 lbs. av.
Ground Oats.....	100 lbs. av.
Low Grade Flour.....	75 lbs. av.
Beef Scrap.....	75 lbs. av.

With every five pails of this mixture are used two pails of dry cut clover (loosely packed in pail). The clover is scalded and lightly salted before mixing with the grain. The grain mixture is added to the wet clover and mixed into a stiff, crumbly mash. Mash is fed when cool, twice daily,

supplying a bucket of fresh water at either end of the food trough. Fine grit and fine crushed oyster shell are kept before the ducks all the time.



A good trough in which to feed ducks or young ducklings. Make the sides just high enough to keep them out of the feed, and slats just wide enough so they can eat conveniently.

#### Ration for Breeding Ducks.

Heavy Wheat Bran.....	3 pecks.
Low Grade Flour.....	1 peck.
Corn Meal .....	1 peck.
Best Beef Scrap.....	3 lbs. av.
Fine Grit or Sand.....	1 lb. av.

Mix with cold water. Feed twice daily. This ration is for ducks kept on wide green range or pasture in summer season and intended for breeding stock.

#### Ducklings Under Four Days Old.

Wheat Bran.....	1 bushel.
Corn Meal .....	1 peck.
Low Grade Flour.....	1 peck.
Fine Grit.....	2 lbs. av.

Mix into crumbly mash with cold water and feed four times a day all they will clean up in twenty minutes.

#### Ducklings Four Days to Four Weeks Old.

Wheat Bran.....	1 bushel.
Corn Meal.....	1 peck.
Low Grade Flour.....	1 peck.
Fine Ground Beef Scrap.....	3 lbs. av.
Fine Grit.....	1½ lbs. av.

Beef scrap should be scalded before mixing with grain. Mix mash with cold water. Feed four times a day all they will clean up. Give green cut clover, fresh cut rye, or cabbage freely.

#### Ducklings Four to Six Weeks Old.

Corn Meal.....	3 pecks.
Wheat Bran.....	1 peck.
Low Grade Flour.....	1 peck.
Fine Grit.....	1 lb. av.
Fine Ground Oyster Shells.....	½ lb. av.
Scalded Beef Scrap.....	3 lbs. av.

Mix in 10 per cent fine cut, fresh green food. Mix mash with cold water; feed four times a day all they will clean up.

#### Finishing-Off Mash for Market Ducklings.

Two weeks before the birds are killed feed the following ration, omitting all green food:

Corn Meal.....	2 bushels.
Ground Oats.....	1 bushel.
Beef Scraps.....	15 lbs. av.
Low Grade Flour.....	2 pecks

Mix with cold water. Feed three times daily.

### FEEDING DUCKLINGS AT VARIOUS AGES OR STAGES OF GROWTH.

The feeding of ducklings is a very important part of duck culture. Here is a good method of feeding ducklings, a formula used by one of the Duck Kings, James Rankin, and it is one of the best: "The first four days,

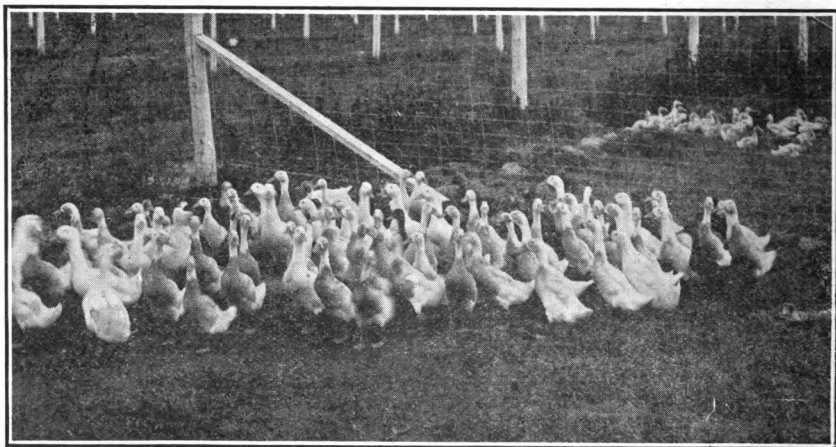
feed equal parts of rolled oats and cracker or bread crumbs, ten per cent of hard boiled eggs, chopped fine, five per cent coarse sand. Feed four times a day, just what they will clean up and no more."

"The formula for ducks from four days to three weeks old is as follows: Feed equal parts of oat meal and wheat bran, ten per cent corn meal, five per cent coarse sand, five per cent fine ground meat scraps with finely cut green rye or cabbage. Feed four times a day."

"When ducks are from three to six weeks old, feed equal parts of corn meal, wheat bran and oat meal, five per cent fine grit, five per cent of beef scraps. Mix in green food and feed four times a day."

"When from six to eight weeks old, feed two-thirds corn meal, one-third equal parts wheat bran and shorts, ten per cent of beef scraps, five per cent of grit. Give access to green rye or other green food equally as good. Feed three times a day. When from eight to ten weeks old, feed two-thirds corn meal, one-third equal parts of wheat bran and rye middlings, ten per cent beef scraps, five per cent grit and oyster shells. If intended for market, feed less green foods, but for breeders provide all the green food they will consume. Feed three times a day."

The foregoing is used by Mr. Rankin constantly and since we have been following the formula, we find we get good results. The food is never cooked, but mixed with cold water and always fed close to their drinking fountains which have been previously filled with fresh water, preparatory to the feeding. Never, under any circumstances, do we feed our ducks until



A flock of young growing ducklings. It is beneficial if each age is kept separate until the smaller ones are large enough to protect themselves. Otherwise the larger ones will trample on the smaller ones and they will also get most of the food. When young ducks are fed, it is a good idea to have plenty of drinking water near by, for the ducks will eat a little and then run to the drinking pan to wash it down.

plenty of drinking water has been provided. Let me go over some of this ground again briefly. Do not forget to provide the sharp grit. Duck raisers should never forget to supply their young ducklings with plenty of sand and grit in the first food and see that they have the same ever afterwards. Never over feed, but feed just the amount the birds at various ages will clean up quickly. Keep the ducklings a little hungry. Keep the quarters dry and clean. Remember that ducks will thrive in more filth than any other living fowl, but because of this hardness do not abuse it. Remember that no fowl can thrive as well in filth as in clean quarters. We have arrived at the conclusion, that if anyone cannot meet with success in raising ducks, he is a careless breeder and will not make a success in any branch of poultry culture.

As previously stated, ducks are in a measure immune from disease, but

if you transgress the rules of feeding water fowls, you will produce troubles that will kill them. Use good common sense and feed intelligently and your ducks will seldom get sick but will be a profit and a pleasure to grow.

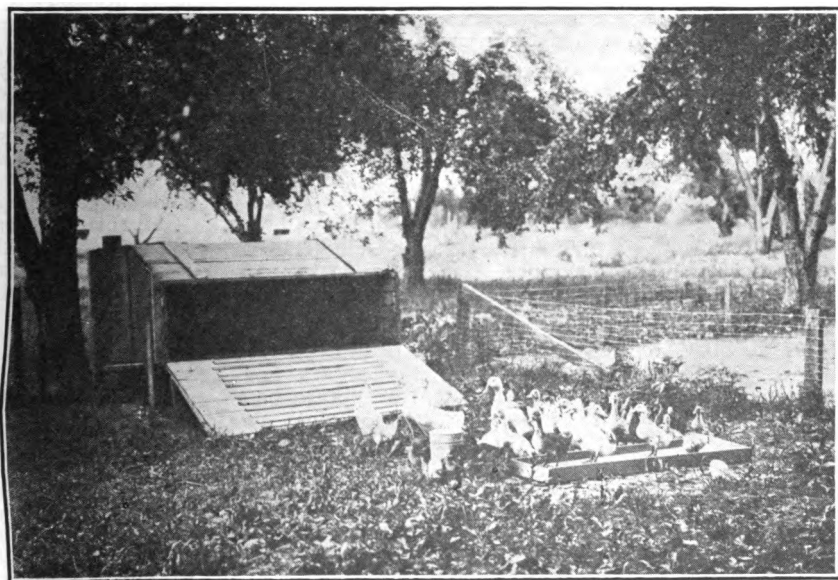
### THE INCUBATION OF DUCK EGGS.

The best way for a beginner to start in the business is by procuring eggs from a reliable breeder. Hens hatch a larger per cent, but this method is impracticable for broilers as they do not set early enough and eggs cannot be set in large quantities.

We use the hot air machines, giving very little ventilation until the hatch is well over, then opening the ventilators. The large duck farms use the mammoth incubators and brooders.

After the second day turn the eggs twice daily, and after the seventh day, spray at one turning while out of the machine, using a whisk broom and brushing lightly with warm water. Eggs do not need airing other than what they have while turning. Duck eggs pip about two days before hatching. Stop turning as soon as they begin pipping. Keep machine closed while you have eggs out to turn. Run them at 103 from start to finish, 104 while hatching will do no harm. Do not remove ducks under 24 hours from time of hatching.

The above has been our experience, but if you use an incubator, it is best to follow the instructions of the man who makes it. He should know his machine best. If you use hens, set them as you would with hen



A cheap but satisfactory duck house built from a piano box.

eggs. It is desirable that air does not come up through the bottom of nest box and dry out eggs. Do not put over 11 eggs under one hen. Sprinkle the eggs in the nest once a week for the first two weeks, and twice the third week, and every other day until they pip the fourth week. Use lukewarm water. Do not get in a hurry to see the ducklings break out. It sometimes takes two days after they pip. Do not throw the eggs away too soon; put those not pipped, except rots, under another sitter for a couple of days after the hen and ducklings are taken off. You may gain a duckling or two by this. We remove the ducklings when they are thoroughly dried, which is several hours after they come from the shell. These are placed in a warm, well littered box in a comfortable place. When the hatch is over

the hen is placed in her coop with ten to fifteen ducklings,—not too many at first. The flock can be added to until you have all of a size running together. Water is now given them to drink. See that they do not get wet or drabbed.

#### **A TEST IN THE INCUBATING OF DUCK EGGS.**

In setting a lot of duck eggs for incubation, some were placed in a hot air incubator, some in a hot water incubator, some under hens in an ordinary nest just off the ground, some under hens on the ground, and some under hens on a board floor in the hen house. In 28 days, the results were that each incubator hatched about the same amount, a little over half. Those in the nests, half. Those on the ground, every egg hatched, and those on the board floor did not hatch a duck. The moisture from the ground is what helped bring about a good hatch where the eggs were set on the ground.

It requires more moisture for duck eggs than other eggs and duck eggs in an incubator should be sprinkled often. After the ducklings pip the shell, they will lay about 24 hours before making their exit from the shell, so do not be in a hurry to release them from the shell.

#### **DUCKS DO NOT REQUIRE MUCH BROODING.**

In brooding ducks and chickens there is very little difference, except that ducks take much lower temperature than chickens and for a shorter time. Do not forget shade even in February and March. When they become crowded move to a small building and give deep bedding. Keep dry and quiet, housing them at night as they are very nervous at all ages. The large commercial duck plants use the larger brooder houses in which to start the young.

#### **PROVIDE A DEEP DRINKING VESSEL**

Put the ducks in a run with plenty of shade so they cannot run very much. Ducks need plenty of clean water to drink. The water should be in vessels deep enough so they can get their whole bill under and rinse their nostrils. (A gallon crock with a brick in it is all right for it is easily cleaned.) If this is not done, the nostrils become clogged, the eggs affected and the ducks will get sick.

We use pie pans, milk pans, and finally crocks for feed and watering troughs as the duckling grow to use the various heights. Galvanized 10 or 12-quart buckets are handy for adult ducks to drink from. We rinse and fill these three times a day with fresh water. Always give fresh clean water when feeding.

#### **DUCKS BENEFICIAL TO POTATO PATCH.**

If the farmers throughout the United States and Canada would build portable duck houses and keep a flock of pure bred ducks near their potato fields, we would soon be rid of the potato bug curse, for if ducks are properly handled, they will keep the potato patch perfectly free from insects and not injure the growing crop.

#### **KEEP STRANGERS FROM BREEDING PENS.**

In housing the breeding ducks in October, I use plenty of straw or litter in the house and always keep it dry by putting new straw in as soon as it gets wet. I do not remove the old as ducks get timid and easily frightened and it might stop them from laying. It is well to go about them gently and allow no strangers to get near them. The best results may be obtained both in regard to egg yield and fertility by keeping all people away from them except the one who feeds and cares for them.

#### **PROPER AGE TO MARKET.**

Of all fowls, the duck is the quickest to mature. Duck raisers in the Eastern States who make duck raising a business never keep their ducks longer than twelve weeks. Then they are dressed and sold in the large cities as Green Ducks or ducklings. If you never ate a young duck, properly cooked, you have missed much of the pleasure of this life.

#### **POINTERS.**

1. To make Big Show birds use the laying feed and always give all they will eat.
2. Eggs will be laid by nine o'clock in the morning—keep the ducks shut up until then.
3. Ducks lay from 25 to 100 eggs each from January to July, as a rule.
4. Size is the first requirement by patrons.

5. Mature young ducks and laying stock out of season need but little feed from July 1st to December 1st, when on range.

6. Overfat stock are not as good for breeders.

7. In small flocks, mate one male to five females; in large flocks, one to seven. Some of the large commercial farmers mate 40 or 50 ducks to 8 or 10 drakes in one breeding pen.

8. Ducks do not need expensive houses.

9. Nests for laying ducks are made by placing a board upright about one foot from the wall and leaving an open space at each end, filling in back of board with straw.

10. Green stuff must be supplied. Lettuce, rape or tender leaves are all good.

11. One thing should be remembered, keep the little ducklings out of the sun. After they are four or five weeks old, we turn them in a yard of rape which we have ready for them. This affords green stuff and shade.

12. Keep oyster shell and chick-size grit always before them. Keep good clean water to drink and plenty of it.

#### RESULTS OF CARELESS METHODS.

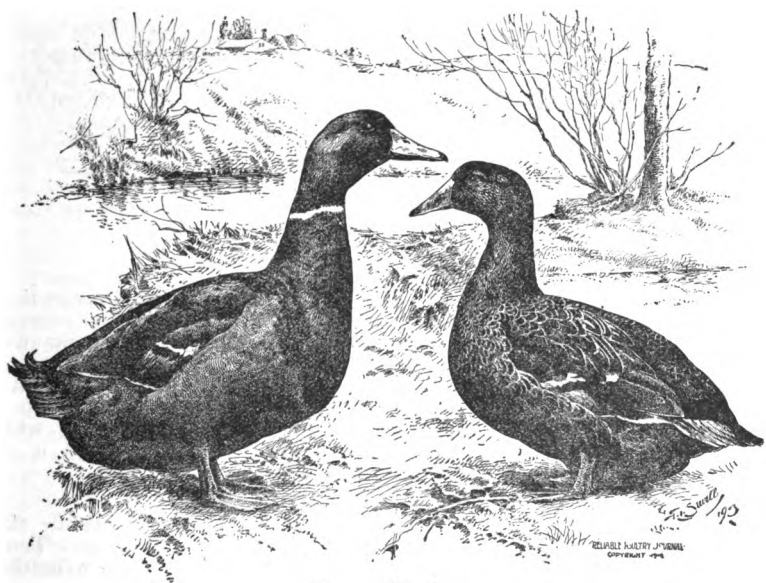
With careful feeding and dry roosting coops, you will marvel how they grow. Be careless, let soured food accumulate, wet coops, drabbled ducklings, etc., and failure is the result. A sick duck in most cases is a dead duck.

#### POPULAR VARIETIES OF DUCKS.

There are several varieties of Standard-bred ducks that have become very popular. While the American people's attention has been directed for the past few years to the Indian Runner ducks, due largely to their enthusiastic advocates, yet, the many old-time varieties are still holding their place with the fashions of the world. There is no duck grown that is more popular than the Pekin. There is no duck grown that is superior to this variety, all things considered. While the Pekin and the Indian Runner are very profitable, the Rouen, the Muscovy, the Aylesbury and the Cayugas are likewise profitable and popular. The Pekin and Indian Runner, of course, are the two leaders.

#### ROUEN DUCKS.

We might say that the Rouen is a very close rival of the Pekin. This variety can be grown to an enormous size. The Standard weights of the Pekin and the Rouen are the same.

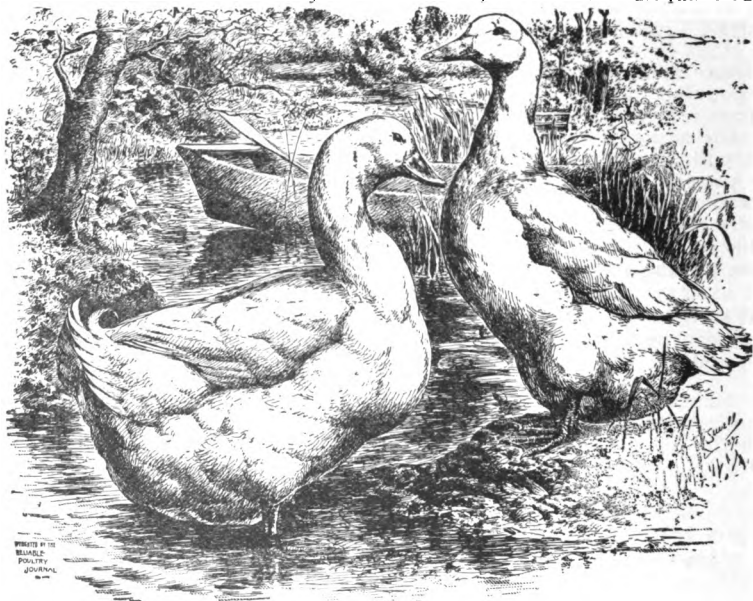


Rouen Ducks.

To our mind, the Rouen is the most beautiful duck grown today. The drake has a very lustrous green head, with an ash grey body. They have a most beautiful wing, which adds splendor to the appearance of the variety. The slaty black bars, edged with a line of white in center, make them attractive. The females are a bright brown, richly marked with a wide penciling of greenish black. Wings appear much the same in color and markings, except the wing bows are distinctly penciled with a light brown that conforms to the shape of feathers. They were first discovered on the banks of the Rouen River in France many years ago. They are, without doubt, the wild ducks of Rouen, France, greatly enlarged by careful breeding and domestication. No duck to our mind could appeal more to the lover of fine arts than the Rouen.

#### THE PEKIN.

We cannot add much to the magnitude of the well-known Pekin. They are very beautiful in color as well as station. The duck is shaped like the drake, except much deeper in stern, a little more full and square. Having beautiful colored plumage and rich orange red shanks and feet they make a very striking combination, especially to every one that admires clean appearances. There is one peculiar feature about the Pekins, and that is this: Black in the beak is a very serious defect; the drake is disqualified for



Pekin Ducks

this defect, while the ducks must suffer a severe cut. Now the strange thing is, the larger you breed them the more this defect appears. Some breeders claim that at least 95 per cent of the ducks when bred beyond Standard weight show this defect, the smaller specimens escaping this defect to a less degree. It appears that this variety will take on an enormous amount of flesh, and retain it until laying time, when it all goes to eggs. As soon as the fat is consumed by eggs, they cease to lay. This is the variety which is used chiefly on large market or commercial duck farms, and is the variety we recommend for that purpose.

#### THE MUSCOVY DUCK.

Now comes that freak of the duck family, the Muscovy. While they are queer to the average man and woman, they are very popular. Truly, they are an oddity and many lovers of "freak" birds have them in their collections of queer specimens. In habits, they are entirely different from



any other Standard variety of ducks. The Standard calls for them to be black and white in color. The dark should show a lustrous green sheen in the sun and greatly predominate. They have a most peculiar head, being very red on sides of face and with a crest on top, which is raised and lowered as desired. The male birds grow to enormous size. The females are medium in weight but large compared to other varieties of ducks. These ducks are not so valuable for the feathers they produce, but are considered by some as the best table variety of all ducks. Strange as it may appear, yet it is a fact, they make their nest in the most peculiar places, where no one would ever suspect. For instance, up in the hollow tree, or in the hay loft, or in other such places. They always make their nest, if possible, where the elements can have no effect on it and carefully line the nest from the down of their body. The nest is built to stand for years, it seems. They are good layers and eggs very fertile as a rule. We have known them to begin laying early in the spring and lay until late in October. There is no variety that will lay more eggs than the Muscovy, except the Indian Runner.

There are two Standard varieties, however—the colored and the white. The colored are the most extensively bred. They are identical, except in color.

As previously mentioned, they are the most peculiar bird known. Among the many peculiarities of this variety, is the fact that it takes just five weeks to incubate their eggs. While this is a long time, it seems, when the ducklings do appear, they are full of life and vigor. There is no fowl as easily raised as the Muscovy. If a mother duck hatches off 20 ducklings, she usually matures 20. This is just about as good a record as any duck can show. Another thing about them which is very queer, is the fact that you may raise every known variety on your place and let them run with the Muscovy, and they will never mix with them. In fact, they are very aristocratic in all their ways. They practically raise themselves, and do not need much attention. They can whip any bird that lives unless it is an eagle. They will not eat as great an amount as other ducks. They are long-lived, much more so than others.

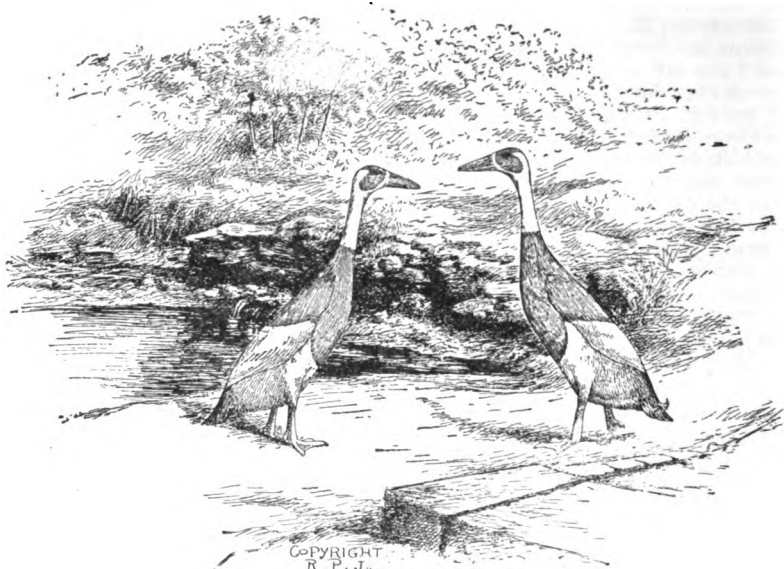
### **THE AYLESBURY AND CAYUGA DUCKS.**

The Aylesbury duck is in the same class with the Pekin except being pure white in plumage, with flesh-colored beak and shanks. They are their equal in quality and are very extensively bred in some sections. The Cayuga duck is quite an old variety. No so extensively bred of late years as formerly, nevertheless they are a strong variety when it comes to quality. Possibly the reason for their unpopularity at the present time is due to their black plumage. Black at one time was all the rage, while now it is white or red and buff. They are, of course, purely wild birds domesticated. They are very hardy; being a wild bird naturally tends to make them very vigorous and full of life. They are good layers and fine table fowl. Any one admiring a black fowl cannot help but admire the black Cayuga duck, which has plumage of the blackest black.

### **INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS.**

There has been so much written about the Indian Runner duck that almost every one knows the popularity of them. There are three distinct strains, the Fawn and White, the Penciled and White, and the pure White, all supposed to be identical except in color. While some writers claim the superiority of one over the other, yet in a degree they are all the same. They are said to be the Leghorn of the duck family. They are not so large as some of the other breeds mentioned. They lay a beautiful white egg. They are extensively bred. They are in great demand, being hardy, easily raised and managed. They never range far from home, and usually lay their eggs before 9 A. M. every morning. Some breeders claim that some individuals among a flock of these ducks will lay 225 eggs or more per year. They will not all do this by any means. There are good and bad, but where they have been carefully bred, quite a number in the flock will make good records ordinarily. There are many Indian Runners that

have been crossed with other varieties, which goes against them to a large degree, but where they have been bred in all their purity, they are very attractive and profitable.



Fawn and White Indian Runner Ducks. There is also the pure White Runner and the Penciled Runner Ducks.

### INTRODUCING NEW BLOOD IN THE FALL.

There is one thing breeders should learn to do in buying new blood, and that is to buy in the fall, for several reasons. First, because it takes about three months for ducks to become accustomed to a new location, to become contented; second, when you buy early, you have a better chance to get the best that grows. When moving them from one place to another, sometimes it retards them from laying, and, in many instances, prevents laying entirely for that season.

### DUCK DISEASES.

Ducks are not subject to disease like chickens, and by following a few simple rules, a person can make a success of raising ducks, when with chickens, it takes years of experience to be proficient. Ducks do not have cholera, lice, roup, etc. About the only troubles they are subject to are these: Leg weakness, caused by sleeping in damp places; bowel trouble, caused by lack of commercial meat in food; cramps from being allowed in rain or very cold water when young, and sunstroke from lack of shade at same age. Any of which can easily be prevented.

### MOST COMMON DUCK DISEASES.

A number of duck breeders were asked this question and you will note their testimony:

**Describe most troublesome diseases of ducks and give your most successful method of treating same.**

"Leg weakness. Plenty of fresh air day and night." W. R. Curtiss & Co.

"Rheumatism from keeping them in wet house in cold weather." Byron Patterson.

"This trouble among very young ducks; they stagger and fall on their backs and die in a few days—sometimes immediately. It very seldom shows itself until warm weather, in April or May. I think it is caused by

over-feeding and that it can be overcome by feeding lightly and keeping clean water before them." F. S. Keith.

"Leg weakness is the most troublesome disease of ducks. It is caused by too highly concentrated food and too much of it. Feed a light food, mostly wheat bran and from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. beef scraps." W. R. Sprenkle.

"In the past few years we have not lost over one or two per cent of our young stock; this year not that much. With the older birds, occasionally one 'goes light.' There is not much chance of curing it and think it better not to do so." Paul G. Springer.

"I am not troubled with any disease among my ducks worthy of mention. Sometimes have 'scours' a little in ducklings, but have found nothing to prevent it or cure it except to have good, hardy parent stock." H. M. Proud.

"Sunstroke is the only trouble we have had. To remedy this, furnish plenty of shade, reduce heavy feeding in hot weather and keep ducks from swimming ponds. Give dry, clean quarters at night. Ducks affected by sun should be put in a cool shady place as soon as noticed. Give warm food, bathe head with warm water." H. E. Moffat.

"Pneumonia, staggers, diarrhoea, leg weakness, cramps or rheumatism. Pneumonia is caused by damp and filthy quarters or by giving ducks a run in the early spring during slushy weather after they have been confined in the buildings. Leg weakness, cramps and rheumatism are caused by dampness, filth and overcrowding. Prevent the disease by avoiding the cause or removing it." A. B. Coolidge.

### **AN EASY METHOD OF DRESSING DUCKS.**

After the ducks have been killed and well bled, have a large quantity of boiling hot water poured into a tub or vessel large enough to entirely submerge the fowl. Add about a pint of cold water and this will prevent the flesh from cooking on the wings and the tender portions of the bird. Place the ducks in the water and dip them up and down and work them about in the water until they are thoroughly steamed. Then take a cupful of this water and as you pull the feathers back the wrong way pour the water onto the duck and into the feathers. You will find it necessary to scald a duck at least twice as long as you do a chicken, but if this method is used it is not much more trouble to dress a duck than it is a hen. After you remove it from the vessel put the duck on a paper or table and pick the duck with both hands while the feathers are still warm. What little down is left can be removed by singing. This method is recommended where ducks are prepared for home consumption, or for private table.

### **PROFITABLE GOOSE GROWING.**

No other young poultry can so easily look out for themselves as young goslings. After the first few days they require very little care and are raised almost exclusively on grass pasture or other green forage, corn fodder or young green rye making excellent pasture for them. Under such conditions, young goslings go confidently on their way, asking no favors, and picking what to them is first class fare from the grass and bugs to be found about them.

After the first few weeks they may be left to follow their own inclinations as regards roving, but they should not be allowed water for swimming purposes. Plenty of fresh water to drink should be within their reach at all times. They require no fancy foods and can and will thrive on grass alone, but grow more quickly and make a better development if other food is given them. Most goose growers supply the goslings with an abundance of green food for the first seven or eight weeks and they are then allowed three to four weeks fattening to be in good green gosling condition for market. With the ease with which they reach market proportion at twelve weeks, together with the fact that they are remarkably hardy, is it any wonder that the interest in goose growing is increasing?

As a side line for the poultryman or farmer, much can be said in favor of goose growing. With good pasture land, the average farmer can raise

marketable goslings with a minimum amount of labor and expense, and in doing so increase in no small degree his yearly profits.

Geese possess remarkable freedom from disease and have an undoubted value as table poultry both on the market and for home consumption. The cost of housing is very small and the fact that the care and feeding of geese is believed to be less than in other varieties of domestic poultry makes the present demand for green goslings worthy of consideration.

In connection with the rearing of geese in small numbers by farmers, so-called fattening establishments are conducted where geese in great numbers are brought from all sections of the country and in flocks of from 100 to 2000 are fattened and prepared for market. The goslings when fully feathered are bought up from the farmer and in about four weeks are killed and marketed. This branch of the goose growing industry has progressed quite rapidly during the last decade, especially in some sections and there is every reason to believe that similar establishments would prove profitable in many sections of the country.

The fact that geese can be turned out to pasture for as much as six months of the year, during which time the cost of keeping them is little more than the value of the grass they consume, together with an increasing market demand for green geese has undoubtedly been the means of again awakening an interest in them, especially on farms where there is waste pasture land. It is also a fact that geese are particularly hardy; sickness being almost unknown among them. Neither are they much troubled with lice or vermin as are other varieties of fowls. Aside from their market value as food, the feathers from geese are always salable at a good figure and are an important item. The demand for "green goslings" in most Eastern markets is good from early in June until the last of February with "top prices" at the beginning of the season. The cost of production is variously estimated but generally agreed to be comparatively low.

We believe that the average poultryman who has a strip of pasture land, as well as a love for the beautiful in fowls, would increase both his pleasure and profit by the intelligent breeding of geese.

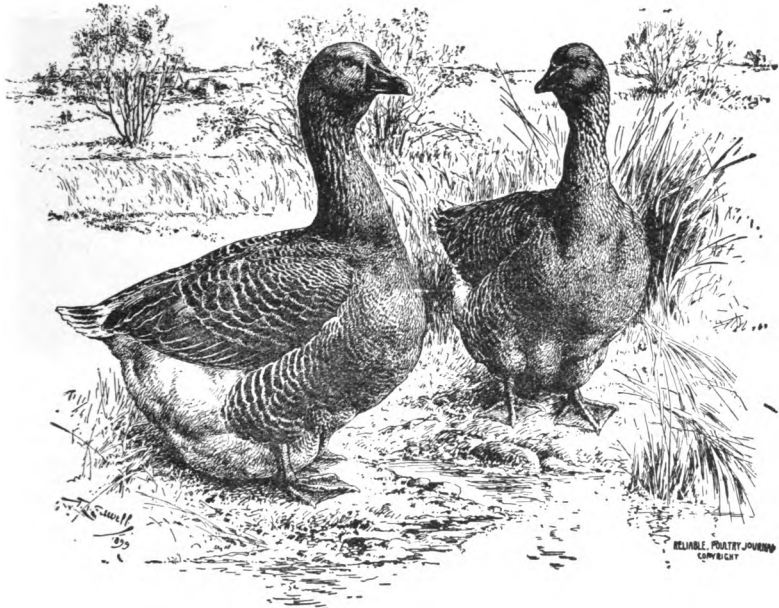
The first known domesticated geese were owned by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The origin of the domesticated goose dates back hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. We have several accounts of ancient geese in old English literature. Evidently geese have been profitable fowls for hundreds of years. There are some expert poultrymen keeping a number of geese for experimental purposes and have given out the most desirable varieties, as follows: Toulouse, Embden, African, Chinese and Canadian. The Standard gives us a variety known as the Egyptian goose. The Embden and the Toulouse are bred extensively. There are two varieties of the Chinese, brown and white. We might add that the African is a distinct variety. Same is true of the Canadian.

There are perhaps more Toulouse geese raised than any other, due to market demands for them. There are possibly as many other varieties raised among fanciers as the Toulouse, but such is not the case with farmers and the large market breeders. In breeding geese, the fanciers consider the same disqualifications for the geese as they do for the ducks, that is, twisted wings, crooked back and wry tail. The Toulouse gander and goose resemble each other so closely, it is very hard for the amateur to determine the sex. Our method of distinguishing the sex, is to learn the voices. The voice of the female is coarse, while that of the male is fine. The male has a thicker neck and is more masculine in appearance.

### TOULOUSE GEESE.

The Toulouse geese are a variety that commands enormous size. Both sexes possess large, broad, deep breast, broad back, with slight concave from neck to base of tail. In this variety we want a head very large, with beak short, but stout. With fanciers, the dewlap is regarded as very valuable in old fowls. Young birds do not possess a dewlap. They attain a great weight of 30 pounds quite often. The Standard requires adult ganders to weigh in ordinary flesh 25 pounds, the adult goose 20 pounds, young ganders

20 pounds, young goose 16 pounds. Geese bred to this size are very valuable, but when they reach the size of 30 pounds, they are regarded as high-class exhibition specimens. The great size of this variety makes them very valuable as market geese. This gives us a water fowl as large as the Bronze turkey, and many farmers that are not located so as to raise turkeys, grow geese, as they do not require a large farm to range over, only a good pasture field and water. It is said that the Toulouse is one of the best laying geese



Toulouse Geese.

of any of the goose family. Where they are highly bred, they seldom ever become broody, some specimens laying until well up in summer. As to color they are very desirable, being a "blue gray," as termed by some fanciers, but the Standard calls for different shades of gray in various sections of the body. The young are very hardy, easily raised and mature very rapidly. The error of feeding too much fattening food to goslings often causes sudden death. Goslings should not be fed heavily on fat-producing foods, where they have plenty of pasture and natural water supply. Goslings are easily fattened and will get too fat, when fed on a ration of corn meal or any other fat-producing food. Where they have plenty of pasture, they will practically make their own living.

### EMBDEN GEESE.

The Embden geese rank well up with the Toulouse in popularity. They resemble the Toulouse in shape more than any other variety of geese we know of. They have a long neck, in fact they are more lengthy in all sections, and pose in a more erect style than the Toulouse. They have a pure white plumage, with a rich orange colored beak, shanks and toes. These desirable features, with their bright blue eyes, make them a most attractive variety. Their feathers are in great demand in all markets. In the show room, they appear to attract more attention than almost any other variety of geese. The Embdens are a very profitable variety to breed on account of their feathers being in such great demand. In some markets, their feathers bring considerably more than other feathers. With proper surroundings for goose farming the Embden can be grown readily with profit. There is one thing about well-bred geese, practically every breeder that has any push

about him has not been able to produce enough stock to supply the demand, and especially is this true of the breeders of Embdens.

### **AFRICAN GEESE.**

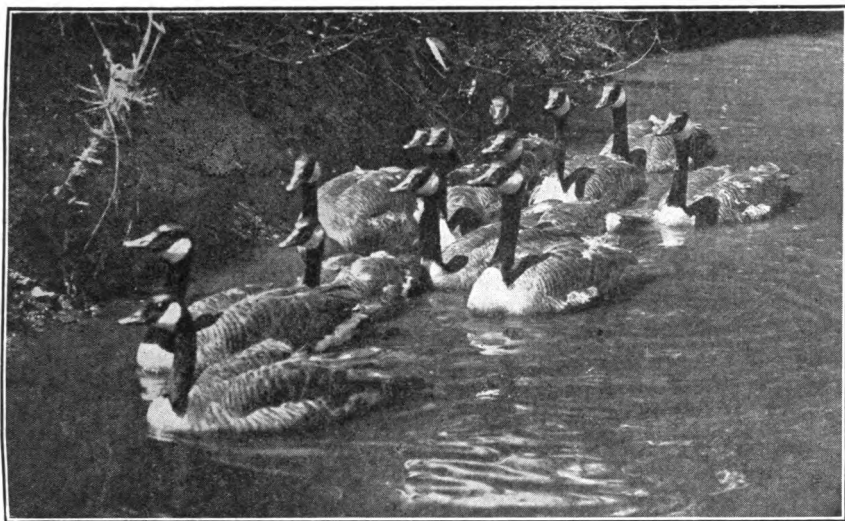
The African geese are a very desirable variety and are bred extensively. They possess a very large neck and head, with heavy, well-developed dewlap in matured geese, while the young geese do not have as well developed dewlap as they do when they reach one year of age or older. Their long curved neck, broad, flat back, breast medium full, and body long and large, carried upright, gives them a sprightly appearance, which is very much desired with the better bred varieties. They have a very pleasing color for a water fowl. Head is black, with large black knob and beak. The neck has a dark stripe running down the entire length to back. Aside from these special markings the plumage resembles that of the Toulouse. A flock of African geese, when bred up to a high state of perfection, are very beautiful and sell for long prices to fanciers who wish to exhibit them. The young are very hardy and, like all other geese, live largely on grass, if given range. The absence of knob or dewlap on the African goose is a disqualification and this is regarded a very valuable section by goose fanciers. Should you produce an African goose with a yellow or flesh-colored beak or knob, it would be worthless from a fancier's point of view. These points must be black and very prominent. The larger and more pronounced the better. White primaries like the Embden are a disqualification and great care must be exercised not to permit any foreign color in wings, or elsewhere for that matter.

### **CHINESE GEESE.**

The Brown and White Chinese are identical in shape, but vary in color. The plumage of the white varieties are pure white. The knob, toes and shanks yellow. They are of the same weight, being much smaller than either the Toulouse, Embden or Africa. The Brown Chinese have a dull, yellowish-brown stripe down back of neck from head to body, while the body color is a grayish brown. The knob of the Chinese geese is a very desirable section and must be large, the larger the better. The knob is black and bill is black, while the shanks and toes are of a dusky orange. The same qualifications stand for these as for the African. They are classed as ornamental geese, however, and are not very good layers. Their grace and great beauty attract the attention of the fanciers and soon become very popular with the fancy trade, but not so much with farmers and market men, as the larger varieties answer their requirements much better.

### **CANADIAN OR WILD GEESE.**

The Canadian geese are bred largely for ornamental purposes. Of late years many breeders have crossed them up with some of the larger varieties and today this class of geese are in great demand in the Eastern markets, especially so with the Jews. These people buy those large, well-fatted crossed breed for their fat and for the meat as well, but mainly for the grease. These hybrids, strange to say, cannot be crossed further and the reason is unknown, but breeders that have experienced the mating, state that the eggs are never fertile after you attempt to run the cross further. The first cross between the wild goose and any of our domestic geese proves highly satisfactory and the progeny is very desirable when matured and fattened for the festive markets. The head of the Canadian goose is very small compared to the body. The neck is also very slender, presenting a "snaky" appearance. The body is long and slender, wings very long and powerful, sufficient power in them to carry them hundreds of miles and for days without making a single stop. The Canadian geese are being bred very extensively in America. Many breeders do not breed any other variety, as they claim they are more hardy than any other goose, and very beautiful in color. Head, beak, shanks and toes are black. Plumage, gray and black. Lower posterior parts of the body are white, and tail glossy black.



Canadian or Wild Geese

### EGYPTIAN GEESE

The Egyptian geese are altogether an ornamental fowl. They are not considered by market men at all. Since they are of such a ferocious disposition, they are not bred by many fanciers or market men, but by novelty breeders and "zoo gardens."

Since we have increased in foreign population, the demand for geese has become very great as foreigners consume more of this kind of meat than Americans. Many nations do not eat a great deal of any other kind of meat. The feathers are used by our people very extensively. There is a steady demand for feathers and eggs.

### NUMBER OF MALES TO MATE WITH FEMALES.

Nature's plan works best in rearing geese. Let them pair off as suits their notion and disturb their nests as little as possible. If they have grass and water in their pasture they will soon repay for all expended on them. There should be just as many geese as ganders and they should have a pond or branch, as their natural mating place is on the water. If this plan is followed you will never have many infertile eggs. Pen three or four geese with one gander and allow just water enough for the tip of their bills to get into and you will not get eggs that will hatch the entire season. Without a swimming pool, the old and young geese soon develop a form of paralysis, caused by black lice at the base of their heads, resulting in speedy death. The baby goslings when shut away from water will sit in the grass and go through the bathing motion, always passing his bill over the back of his neck and at the base of the wing quills. The gander helps raise and protect the little ones.

### PROPER AGE FOR BREEDERS.

Eggs should always be used from old geese, not under two years old, as eggs from young geese are never as strong in fertility as old goose eggs. We have heard many breeders claim that eggs from young geese will not hatch at all, but this is a mistake, though the eggs do not prove as high in fertility as the eggs from the old geese.

### DETERMINING SEX OF GEESE

It is quite difficult for an amateur and often an experienced breeder can only tell the sex of his geese by making a physical examination. Some of the best methods are as follows:

"The gander is heavier with longer neck and larger head than the goose. A physical examination of each bird is the only sure method to determine the sex for all varieties at different ages." W. M. Sawyer.

"You can tell the sex of geese by their 'squall' and by the shape. The female's neck is thinner than that of the male." J. H. Worley.

"By physical examination. Some tickle them under the wing when the female will cackle or chuckle while the male remains silent." F. J. Gross.

"Catch birds, and by gently pressing around vent, the sexual organ may be easily observed." F. D. Fowler.

"The goose has a low bass voice while the gander's is more sharp like a whistle. The goose has a short neck; the gander has long slim neck and is always in the lead." F. J. Damann.

"Males hold their heads more erect, neck longer and heads a little larger though in well grown goslings, this is difficult to decide." S. A. Little.

"Sex is determined by general appearance and the voice. In male it is shrill, while the female's voice is hoarse." Mrs. B. F. Bishop.

### **BEST TO START WITH STOCK, NOT EGGS.**

It is much better to start your flock with a pair of birds rather than eggs. Geese are peculiar, and their eggs are more so. They stand shaking and shipping so poorly that eggs shipped from a distance for hatching are rarely satisfactory. A pair of big-boned breeders, thin in flesh, will be quicker and surer. The first question from the prospective buyer is: "What does your bird weigh?" This leads the breeder to feed too heavy in order to keep the required weight. So instead of a muscular, active breeder, you often get a small boned, bow-legged, butter-fat goose, absolutely worthless to breed from.

### **YEARLY COST OF KEEPING A GOOSE.**

Growing geese is usually very profitable, as they consume mostly grass and hay, making food inexpensive. It costs about four cents per pound to push them for market until they weigh ten pounds. We have received as high as twenty cents per pound early in the spring for a gosling and ten cents late in the fall. Culls are all we sell on the market, the rest being sold for breeding purposes. With a clover cutter, clover and alfalfa hay can be cut fine for geese, and they can be kept through the winter on this with a little grain occasionally. Geese should not be fed much corn until you are finishing them for market. They fatten easily with plenty of hay, vegetables and grass in summer. It will cost only about fifty cents a year to keep an adult goose if handled in this way.

### **RANGE NECESSARY FOR GEESE.**

No matter what variety of geese you select, range is the all-important feature in goose farming. The goose that has been fondled and heavily fed and has never had ample range is almost worthless as a breeder. In buying geese, be careful to obtain only those that have been accustomed to foraging for their food. If so, they will be found thrifty and full of vigor. If otherwise, you will find them lazy, stupid, worthless creatures. If you do not give range and attempt to grow geese in confinement, you will find them very expensive to keep. Grain does not agree with geese like grass. We would not attempt to grow geese without pasture for them, as they do much better on grass and, at the same time, it is their natural food. We only feed grain to our geese when we wish to fatten and market, and then our geese are grazed and fed grain at the same time. They will fatten very fast when fed grain and allowed plenty of pasture and water. Breeders, or birds intended for breeders, should be fed but very little grain when they have ample range and grass. The majority of failures with geese is due to over-feeding. It is all right to feed liberally, those that are intended for market, but entirely out of place when intended for breeders. Geese and dairy cattle do fine together, if there is plenty of grass, as the geese will feed on grass and the droppings of the cattle, and by the time cold weather appears they are fat and ready for the market. We do not care to have our



geese run with cattle that are fed corn or fat-producing food unless we expect to sell on the market. The breeding geese should never be allowed to range with fattening cattle. Market geese only should be allowed this privilege.

### **PROVIDE RYE PASTURE.**

In winter, we like the geese to have some green food. A rye pasture is fine. Rye for geese for winter green food is superior to anything we have ever used. Geese do well on rye and require but very little feeding, if they have plenty of rye pasture. The only feeding we do is when snow is completely over the rye and frozen so that the geese cannot get it. As long as we grow geese, we will grow rye, as the two go hand in hand. When we have rye pasture through the winter for our geese and can have plenty of moisture through the summer for grass, our geese can be grown at the least expense and at the greatest profit.

### **GEESE REQUIRE PRINCIPALLY GRASS AND WATER.**

In winter we feed lightly of corn; they eat the bloom of clover hay greedily, also bright corn fodder and cow peas.

The idea some have of geese is absurd. Geese are easily raised and very profitable, but you must understand their requirements just the same as with any other fowl. Grass is the natural pasture for geese. It is their natural food, both for young and old geese, and as long as you have plenty of grass, feed but little grain or food of any kind. Geese must have water. That is a fact, but it does not necessarily have to be a large body of water. Good, clean drinking water available for the fowls at all times with plenty of tender grass, will put your geese in the very best condition and mature the goslings in prime condition. We will admit that a large body of water after the geese are grown is very desirable, and the geese enjoy it, but geese can and are grown every year that never see water except for drinking purposes. If you cannot do any better, keep a large washtub full of water where the geese can get in it.

In addition to grass range it is quite often advisable to give breeding geese other rations for best results. Some well known breeders recommend the following:

"Wheat, bran, oats and corn twice a week." J. H. Worley.

"Whole corn with wheat and other small grain." F. D. Fowler.

"I feed mine as I do laying hens; three parts bran, one part wheat middlings, two parts corn and oats mixed. One part of beef scrap to ten of mixture. Mix more moist than for hens." S. A. Little.

"In fall and winter feed cut clover or alfalfa, soaked in warm water mixed with a little corn meal and shorts. In the breeding season in addition to grass, feed twice daily, by measure 4 parts bran, 2 parts shorts, 1 part corn meal, 5 per cent beef scraps. Oyster shells before them." W. M. Sawyer.

"Forage with a little oats and corn. Oats are better soaked or scalded and fed in troughs." Mrs. B. F. Hislop.

"Corn meal, bran and scraps mixed together. A little corn, potatoes, turnips, etc." H. L. Sweet.

"Cracked corn, bran middlings, and grass or cut clover." F. J. Gross.

"Oats and barley. Wheat and a little corn twice a week." F. J. Damann.

### **THE PROPER LOCATION.**

While it is a fact that geese are water fowls, and low, wet land unfit for anything else can be used on which to grow geese, but at the same time we want a dry, high location for a roosting place for geese. You give geese access to high quarters as well as low land and you will notice they always go to the highest point every night to roost. This is easily understood. Geese contract rheumatism when compelled to roost on low, wet land. They invariably select a high spot at roosting time. Shade is a necessity for geese in summer. Without shade geese do not appear to do well, if they are forced to remain out in the heat all day long. An orchard is an ideal

place for geese in the summer time. We have seen our geese devour a multitude of worms that fall from the apples and limbs. Not only this, but they will skin every piece of rough bark from the trunks and devour many deadly insects that are injurious to fruit trees. We have run our geese in the orchards time after time and know they will help rid an orchard of deadly insects.

### **CARE OF GOSLINGS—INCUBATION AND BROODING.**

Goslings are cared for much the same as turkeys when first hatched. When goslings begin to hatch, we place them in a basket lined with a good warm woolen cloth, so that when they are placed in the basket we can cover them up snugly and keep them warm until the hatch is entirely over. It is the nature of all fowls when young to want their backs warm. Any and all fowls require back warmers, so we cover the goslings up carefully and place them in a warm room in the house and never disturb them except to see that none are overcrowded and prevent smothering. As soon as all the eggs have hatched, we place the goslings out with a mother goose. We never give goslings to a chicken hen unless we are compelled to. It is hard sometimes to have a Toulouse goose become broody, as they are supposed to be nonsitters, but at the same time they do sometimes become broody, and when they do, they make fine mothers. We always try to have a mother goose to take the goslings, as they understand the nature of their own kind better than hens and grow them much better. We incubate the eggs with chicken hens invariably. Some use incubators for goose eggs, but we have never been successful in hatching goose eggs with incubators, much preferring to use good broody chicken hens.

Keep the goslings on a dirt floor. Never brood them on a board floor. Goose eggs hatch in 28 days, and they are usually well feathered before the hot sun comes to burn their backs. Late goslings often die from the sun. We never like to "break up" a goose and make her lay again. If she raises twelve goslings with a ready sale at five and ten dollars per pair she has paid her keep and more. They resent your interference and often trample the young or engage you in a scrap. The quieter they are the better.

If you must get eggs and hatch with a chicken hen, sprinkle the eggs often and go to the nest at least three times a week and turn the eggs, as biddy can not roll such big eggs. The goose takes her swim and returns to the nest with wet feathers, to wet up the eggs that the shell may soften and release them. Do not help them out of the shell. It takes them a day and night to finish their evolution and enter another sphere, so don't hurry them and find when it is too late that the absorption was not complete. With care for the stock and the choice of bone rather than fat in the breeders it is not difficult to establish a beautiful and lucrative flock.

### **FIRST FEED FOR GOSLINGS.**

We place the goslings out in a grassy plot prepared for them and prefer to never let them get into water to swim until they are feathered, but plenty of fresh drinking water is provided for them several times a day. Some times we feed the goslings on corn bred, but some times when grass is plentiful we feed very little else. If the grass supply is limited, then we like to feed sparingly of rolled oats, eggs, corn bread, and chick feed, made into a mash. When we have an abundance of grass, we don't feed much, as the goslings will get too fat and die suddenly.

We tried for years to feed the goslings, but they are in such a hurry at morning to get to the grass and water they leave the food untouched and at night they were so full of grass and frogs, they would apparently talk about the day's adventures and go to sleep, so we left Mrs. Goose to feed them, and she does it to my satisfaction. If we attempt to feed them at all, we feed them and handle them just about the same as we do our ducks.

We give other methods of feeding goslings for the reason that some

feeds are available in one section and not in another, and one method may prove successful with one breeder and not with another.

#### **How should goslings be fed and cared for?**

"Keep them warm and feed meal, bran and a very few scraps at first. Give plenty of water, grit and shade and keep in small pens where there is short grass." Herbert L. Sweet.

"They should be fed on soft food while small, bread with a little fine gravel is best, with lettuce, radish tops and cabbage leaves for green food. Allow them a run in cloves but do not let them have water to swim in while small." F. J. Damann.

"Keep them warm and dry at night, out of the rain while young and when the weather is cold. Feed chick mash or corn meal with middlings, mixed crumbly, three or four times daily while young. Give them plenty of green forage and water to drink." Mrs. B. F. Hislop.

"Feed cottage cheese, chopped grass, lettuce, dandelion tops or other green stuff. Move the runs frequently." Frank J. Gross.

"Goslings should be fed corn meal, slightly moistened, not sloppy, and salted as you would your own food. They should be given plenty of water to drink but not allowed to get wet." John H. Worley.

"For the first few days feed eggs and corn bread, then bread and small grain with plenty of green food to eat and water to drink at all times." Frank D. Fowler.

"Goslings should not be fed until 24 to 36 hours old. After that for the first two or three days feed corn bread soaked in sweet milk with lettuce or fresh grass cut fine with the scissors, as a green food. A ration composed of equal parts by measure bran, middlings and corn meal mixed crumbly with water, feeding only what they will eat up clean, may then be given. It is advisable to mix a little sand with the food. They should be allowed a run on fresh grass." W. M. Sawyer.

"Keep them dry but not too warm. I prefer one hen mother for five goslings, in a large roomy coop. If a clipped lawn can be provided for range, it is ideal. Feed them dry bread crumbs and plenty of grass. Give them clean water with grit in it, but do not allow them to get into the water." Sara A. Little.

#### **PROVIDE SHELTER AND PROTECTION FROM RAIN.**

We make or prepare a shelter for our goslings and protect them from rainstorms by allowing them to come to the shed, which is handy and next to our goose quarters. As soon as it begins to threaten rain they are driven to this shed until the storm is over. Goslings appear to enjoy standing out in the rain with their heads up, and if not made to go into the shelter, soon fall over dead, when the shelter possibly was within a few feet of them. Outside of rainstorms, we allow our goslings to graze over the pasture at will, and they live on grass, and consequently handled in this way, they are almost all profit with but little expense except the care. During the fall, when the pasture begins to become dry, we feed raw potatoes, man-gles, cabbage and turnips or anything they relish as green food.

#### **AVOID LEG WEAKNESS AND RHEUMATISM.**

In bad weather, we house our geese at night to protect them from wet and snow. They are bedded with straw, the same as the ducks. Any water fowl must keep its feet warm in order to be comfortable. When they are compelled to sit out in the open in the cold and snow, you can expect some dead geese by spring, as wet, damp sleeping quarters nearly always produce more or less rheumatism. If your geese have been well cared for during the winter, they will lay at least five weeks earlier than when exposed. The eggs will be more fertile and the goslings stronger and easier raised. While we always feed our goslings and old geese in the fall all the turnips, beets, cabbage or other green food they want, at the same time we prepare a patch of rye for their winter pasture, and as soon as the rye has made headway enough we turn them on it.

#### **DISEASE OF GEESE AND TREATMENT.**

We seldom, if ever, lose any goslings by disease. If we lose any goslings, it is by accident or they are caught by turtles or lost by some manner other than by disease. Lameness is the only and worst thing we

have to contend with. Of late years, we have learned how to overcome that, and that is by not overfeeding, and never keep our geese in close confinement, nor allow them to roost on low, wet soil. Their roosting quarters are always kept dry and bedded. You will notice that if you have lameness, it seldom makes its appearance until fall, when snow or weather appears; or, should you keep your geese confined and never allow them range, they will become affected at any season of the year; but generally the lameness comes in the fall and winter, when you begin feeding and housing your geese, which is sufficient proof that lack of proper shelter or housing and improper feed, or possibly unwholesome food, is the direct cause. If we have a goose that becomes suddenly lame, we isolate it from the rest of the flock and feed light diet of stale bread, and provide plenty of water. We give a teaspoonful of castor oil and rub the joints with some good liniment. The second evening we give another dose of oil and continue to feed very lightly and keep the bird warm and comfortable. In a few days it will be improved and we turn it out on the rye patch. As soon as they get able to get out on range and feed on green foods, the trouble will soon disappear, as a rule. Geese, aside from lameness, are not subject to but few, if any, diseases. They are long-lived and will live to a great old age. We have known geese to live to be twenty-five or thirty years old. They will not lay as many eggs when so old, but the young will be very hardy and easily matured.

### **PREPARING GEESE FOR MARKET.**

We have learned that the markets demand large, heavy, well-fattened specimens. Birds that have round, plump, fat carcasses are in great demand and will bring the top market price. In feeding geese, we always aim to get our geese good and fat and as soon as they are fat, we do not feed them longer, but put them on the market at once. We handle our market geese differently from turkeys. Instead of giving them range when preparing for market, we place them in a small lot, so that they cannot exercise but little, but prefer that they get some green grass or rye, so arrange our feeding pens so that the geese can get to the green rye or a portion of it at least. We use a trough of the V shape to feed in. Our morning feed is corn meal, oat meal, rye middlings and ground wheat. Mix it thoroughly and scald and feed while warm. At noon we feed shelled corn, all they will clean up. At night we feed ground corn, ground coarse, with wheat. Fresh water, grit and charcoal are provided constantly. Geese, when feeding for market, should have plenty of grit and charcoal. They will consume a large amount of it. Keep the quarters clean where you are feeding geese, as everything will become filthy where geese are fed unless you use every effort to keep things sanitary. Geese fatten very fast and from two to three weeks is ample time to fatten a goose. We never feed after the geese are rounded out and ready for market, but sell at once. No one can make any profit feeding after the fowls are ready for market. Then again there is danger of losing some because they are overly fat, if you continue to feed after you once get them finished.

Many growers prefer to dress their geese and ship them to market dressed in order to receive the very highest price possible, which is correct, as the producer is entitled to more profit on his product than anyone else.

### **METHOD OF KILLING AND PICKING GEESE.**

Anyone can easily dress geese. After the weather gets cold enough to insure continued cold, you can dress and deliver to almost any market with safety. Omit feeding the night before you expect to butcher. Hang up the bird by its feet before sticking. After you get your birds all ready for sticking, take a sharp knife and insert into the roof of the mouth, well back, so that the blood will flow freely. Use the same methods as is used in sticking and killing chickens. If you wish to dry pick, it is best to only kill one at a time, but as we have such poor success with dry picking, we never recommend that method of picking to the amateur for water fowl, as the skin of a fat goose will tear in spite of all you can do. So I much prefer to steam and pick. The best method is to take a wash kettle or stove boiler and fill with about five inches of water. Take laths and make you a frame that will fit down in the kettle and stand

about three or four inches above the water. Heat your water previous to killing, and continue to keep a hot fire, and as soon as your birds are dead place one or two (owing to the size and room you have) on this frame and steam thoroughly for about five minutes, not longer as you will cook the flesh. Make certain that your carcass does not touch the water. Cover the kettle tightly so as to retain all the steam. Watch your heat, and if very hot, three minutes is sufficient time to steam, but if reasonably hot, five minutes is about the correct time to steam. We rather prefer a moderate heat, and steam longer, than to overheat. As soon as the carcass has steamed enough, take it out quickly. Loop a stout string around shanks and hang to hooks prepared to receive them and of the proper height to be convenient for your pickers. Always hang with head down so that each carcass will drain well, and the blood will not soil the feathers. Pick rapidly. Have your pickers trained so that they will understand the art of picking so as to not tear the flesh. Do not hang the bird over a barrel as you do when you pluck turkeys, but have your barrel to one side, handy, where you can place every feather in the barrel without getting blood on the feathers. The feathers are too valuable to have them soiled and this method of dressing will insure you bright, clean feathers and a carcass that can scarcely be detected from dry picking. If there should be any down on the carcass after you have finished the picking, take powdered resin and rub over the body and place back in the steaming kettle for a few minutes. Then remove quickly and rub briskly and no down will remain. This steaming will plump the carcass and make them appear very attractive. If you should get any blood on the neck or on the carcass, take cold water and wash the blood off. Never pack with the carcass soiled with blood as it will result in a loss to you, as such consignments are always graded and sold at a reduced price. Have racks sufficient to receive your birds after being plucked, with room sufficient to receive them singly, not one bird upon another, as this ruins their shape in every instance.

We have never drawn our market geese, as most markets prefer them undrawn, but some markets prefer them drawn. It will be best to consult your dealers to find out what is desired. Some markets do not even want them dressed, but prefer them alive and well fatted. In packing, make sure that every head remains on the body as they will not sell at all beheaded. Pack in boxes of about one hundred pounds, after full. Pack with legs and body as straight as possible. See that the carcass is not bent or twisted out of shape. Make your package as tight as possible so that there will be no shuffling in handling, as this would cause the carcass to color up and possibly ruin the entire consignment. We don't like barrels for packing geese as you cannot pack in these without getting the body twisted or out of shape. Do not make the mistake some do of packing a mixed lot. If you dress geese, have all geese in your package. If you dress any other fowls, have the packages contain each variety separately. Never mix up your packages. Get your consignments on the markets at a season or at a time when the market is most active as you will realize much more. If you ship alive, you will find that the ordinary shipping crates for water fowls used by poultry market men are the most convenient for marketing geese. See that they have plenty of water to drink while on the way, but avoid feeding as they will arrive in better condition without food. The feathers plucked from your dressed geese should be sacked and thoroughly dried before offering them on the market. If you once get into the goose industry, you will likely find it a pleasant and profitable business, as you have a double profit coming, in the shape of feathers and meat. Like any other business, it must be understood and sensibly handled in order to make it profitable.

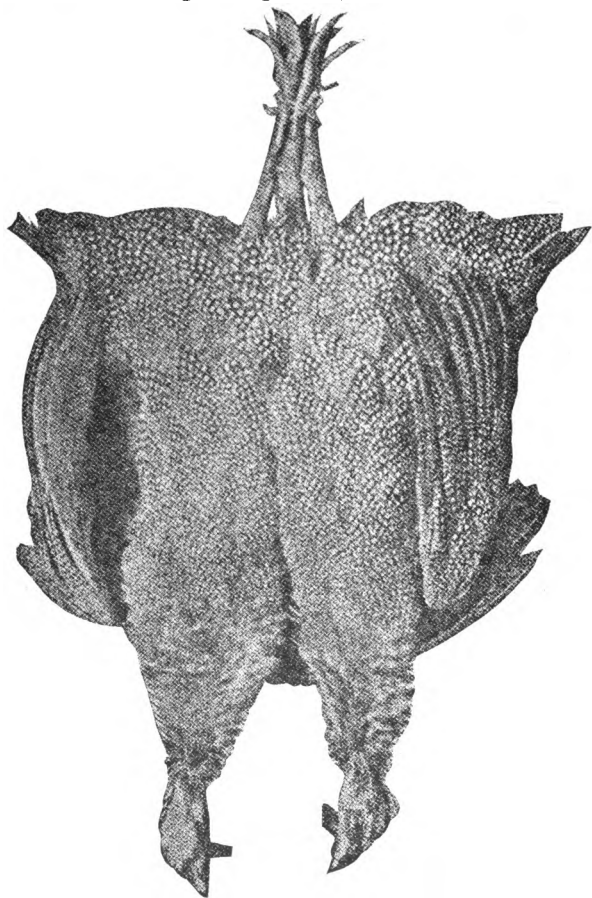
### **PICKING LIVE GEESE FOR FEATHERS.**

We do not pick our breeding geese only at their natural molting period. Goslings which are intended for market in the fall, should not be picked, but the small feathers of the breast and sides may be removed. It does not pay to pick breeding geese except at their natural molting period, which comes after the laying season. They may then be picked every seven or eight weeks until cold weather, if fed for this purpose. A fifteen-pound goose,

if well cared for, will average one-half to one pound of feathers a year without injury to its breeding qualities. Goose feathers in most sections are worth from thirty-five cents to seventy-five cents per pound, according to the color and quality of the feathers.

### GUINEA CULTURE.

There is a great amount of prejudice existing against guineas which is not deserving. This prejudice exists mainly on the ground that they have a tendency to wander away from home and become lost, or because of their noisiness. In reality, there is nothing to complain of in either of these two objections. We have grown guineas, both White and Pearl, for many



A pair of Pearl Guineas ready for market. They are used as a substitute for game and this fact is going to make a greater and growing demand for them.

years and must say that our guineas have never wandered away, neither have they been a nuisance because of the excessive noise. Guineaes should never be considered as ordinary poultry for they are in class to themselves and cannot be compared with any other domestic poultry. They are naturally a wild fowl, but can be taught or trained to seek farm buildings and surroundings for their homes. They are a fowl of considerable merit. While they are naturally a wild fowl, partially domesticated, yet they still possess a pronounced desire to roam. They never roam so far but what they

will return to their roosting quarters. They appear to have a disposition to be a natural guard about farm homes. Nothing takes place about the place at night or day, without the guineas put up a shrill shriek, a distinct note of warning that there is something out of the ordinary taking place. Let a stranger appear on the place, and every guinea will at once put up a note of warning. At night, if a chicken, goose, turkey or duck makes the least bit of fuss, denoting distress, the guineas will chime in and give us notice that there is something out of the ordinary taking place. Aside from these inclinations, they are very valuable as layers, as well as for meat. However, it is not every location that is suited for guineas, as they must have a reasonable amount of range. This range, you know, is not always possible, hence guineas should not be considered if range is impossible. Freedom is important with all wild fowls. While this is true, we can better confine guineas with success and without fear of immediate danger than most any other fowl of the same nature. This spring we had a large number of young male guineas which we were holding for breeding purposes, selling to customers as rapidly as possible, but as the guinea mating season comes later than with almost any other fowl, we are always compelled to hold them later than other fowls. Consequently, we were compelled to yard in a lot only 24x32, with comfortable house conveniences, and these cockerels on the day we disposed of the last one, which was late in May, were as vigorous and as active as if they had been ranging over a thousand acres of land. We cannot handle turkey cockerels in this manner, so guineas, after all, can be confined to a certain degree with better success than almost any other naturally wild fowl. You cannot confine the breeders any great length of time and count on good hatches. We confine or pen our breeders sometimes for certain reasons in order to improve the matings, but we manage to liberate them some part of the day for exercise and do not experience any bad results. In a general way, guineas should have freedom. The more liberty they have, strange as it may appear, the less desire they have for wandering away from home. We know personally of several flocks that were forced to limited range, which would, when permitted to range, leave home entirely in order to get freedom. Where they have freedom, they will invariably come back to their proper quarters.

### **BEST LOCATION FOR GUINEAS.**

The most suited place for guineas we find is a large orchard near your houses. The garden is a desirable place for guineas and is much appreciated by them. Guineas will not scratch or eat of the fruit, as you might suppose, but will quietly creep along the foliage of the plants, ridding the plants of many deadly insects. They see every bug and insect that makes its appearance. They want to be where they will not be molested. Last season we had a pair of guineas range in the garden all season. The hen made a nest under a large rhubarb leaf and laid a full clutch of eggs and incubated the eggs and brought off a fine drove of pretty guineas that lived off of the garden insects all season. The insects which they permitted to live were mighty few as every cucumber vine was raided every morning the same as all other plants, and a finer garden was seldom seen. We placed a fountain of fresh water in a convenient place for them in the shade. They soon learned its whereabouts and from all appearances they thrived and did as well as we could have desired.

### **EXCESSIVE INBREEDING DETRIMENTAL.**

Guineas are the least trouble of all fowls. They are self-supporting. Guineas, like ducks, are easily weakened by inbreeding, not to such a degree as it affects chickens, but about the same as it affects water fowls. They are inbred more perhaps than water fowls, which has a tendency to cause many flocks to be low in vitality. We are very careful to not tolerate inbreeding in our matings. We cannot mature the chicks where the matings have been excessively inbred. The young will appear very delicate, where inbreeding is tolerated, therefore new blood should be introduced at least every second year. Where guineas are non-related, the progeny is very hardy and matures rapidly.

## SELECT THEIR OWN FOOD FROM THE RANGE.

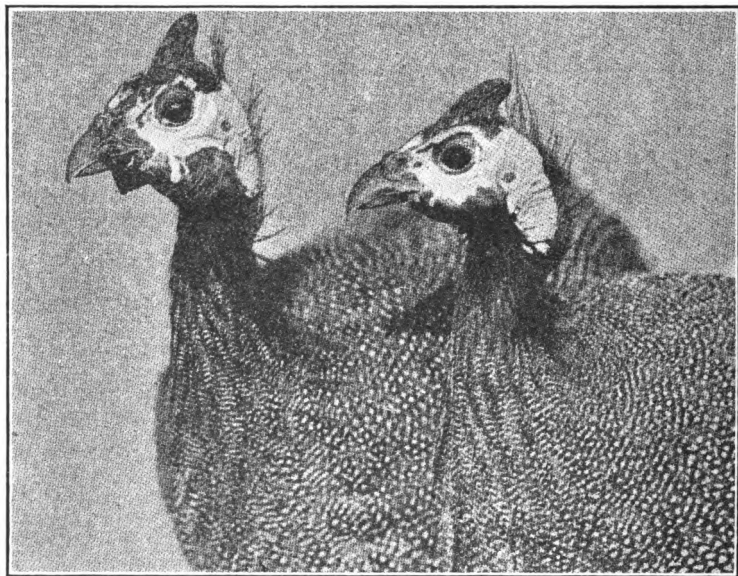
They prefer to select their own food from the range, as they live chiefly on insects, worms and wild seeds just the same as turkeys. If we feed guineas freely they soon contract indigestion just the same as a turkey, and die. Always allow them to feed on natural foods. If they are fed at all they should be fed about the same as chickens but not so freely.

## DISTINGUISHING THE SEX OF GUINEAS.

It is quite a difficult matter for an amateur to distinguish a male from a female guinea fowl. Breeders have been known to unknowingly market all of the females or all of their males and then have nothing left except birds of one sex. The male has a somewhat larger helmet and wattles and coarser head, but a more positive method of distinguishing the sex is by the cry of each bird. The females seem to say "Buckwheat, buckwheat, buckwheat" while the shriek made by the male is decidedly one syllable. When the guineas are excited both male and female will make practically the same cry, but at no time does the male seem to say "Buckwheat, buckwheat, buckwheat." This difference in the male and female can be distinguished most any time after the birds are two months old.

## GATHERING THE EGGS.

The guinea hen will always make her nest in some secluded spot. If you visit her nest and touch the eggs the wild nature of the bird seems to cause her to stop laying in that nest and she will take up a new one in some other spot. Therefore, some recommend either leaving the eggs in the nest or if you wish to incubate them under chicken hens or in an incubator they should be removed with a spoon and the nest should not be touched or disturbed. After the eggs are removed a few nest eggs must be left in their place. It is usually best to leave at least a half dozen eggs in the nest to prevent the hen from seeking a new nest.



Distinguishing the sex of Guineas. You will notice that the helmet and wattles of the male on the left are larger than those of the female on the right. (Courtesy of Andrew S. Weiant, Bureau of Animal Industry.)

## BEST METHOD OF BROODING.

We have read many letters from supposed experienced guinea growers, that advocate many things that were always disastrous to use. There is



one theory advocated by many growers, about how to brood guineas. Some writers say the best method is to brood them in brooders, a method that has proven a complete failure with us. Another method is to brood them altogether with the natural guinea hen, which is an improvement over the artificial brooder, but a method with which we could never have any success. We have used each method and have arrived at the conclusion, after several successful seasons, that the chicken hen makes the best guinea mother possible, except the turkey hen. But as it is impossible to have a turkey mother at all times with the guineas, we advocate the use of chicken hens over the natural guinea mother or the artificial brooder. Our reasons for advocating this method is based on the fact that whenever we attempted to grow guineas with the natural mother, she traveled too fast and did not hover them as often as she should. If guineas are brooded in a place like a garden, then we could use the natural guinea mother, but where we are compelled to give them the liberty of the farm, we find the guinea hen travels too fast for them and fails to hover them just at the proper time.

Again, the natural mother will go up in the trees to roost entirely too early for the guineas. We have seen mother guineas go up in the trees to roost before the baby guineas were able to fly, hence the little fellows would all be dead the next morning. A chicken hen will not do this. The only place we could ever raise guineas with the guinea hen was in the garden on the lawn. The guinea must have abundance of brooding, much more than the natural mother is willing to give, owing to her great eagerness to range. The chicken hens will hover them carefully two or three days and then when they start out with them will not go far nor any great length of time without stopping to hover them. Our several hundred head of guineas are raised with the chicken hens, except those that are incubated by the natural mother in the garden, or in the cultivated berry patch. In such instances, we let the natural mother brood them, for in these places they cannot range far, while at the same time they have plenty of insect life to live on and will mature quite as well as those brooded with chicken hens.

We are aware that some writers claim that to raise guineas with chicken hens is not the best manner. What difference does it make what method you use, just so you meet with success? If the brooder, either the fireless or the heated brooders, proved the best, we would use them and recommend them, but when they do not and years of experience with every method known demonstrate real facts and establishes the hen method to be an absolute success with us, we are going to use it and freely recommend it. When we give the baby guineas to the chicken hen and allow them to forage for a living, it is the best method to use, we will venture to say, nine times out of ten.

### **MATING, FEEDING AND CARING FOR THE YOUNG.**

As guineas lay only in summer, it is useless for us to give any set rules for feeding for egg production, because a guinea will lay if she has range and food, when the period or time of year approaches. They are like the the flowers that bloom. When the time of year comes for flowers to bloom, they are going to bloom, regardless of certain inducements that may be attempted in order to induce them to bloom before the season appears. Same is true of guineas. You might feed all the good egg foods known during the winter months and the guinea would continue to be indifferent. It might be possible, however, that certain modifications in methods of handling and breeding might in time induce winter laying with guineas. The feed, we find, has but little to do with inducing guineas to lay. They are a natural forage bird and get every necessary element to satisfy their wants and will lay about the last week in March if the weather becomes mild and favorable. They make very poor sitters, being entirely too restless and will not usually sit on the nest sufficiently long to incubate the eggs, especially early in the season. As the season advances, and the weather gets hot they will then consent to sit and will frequently remain on the nest until the hatch is completed.

## NUMBER OF MALES TO FEMALES.

We mate from two to three hens with one male and find we get quite as satisfactory hatches as when we followed the old method of mating in pairs. It is a mistaken idea that guineas must be mated by pairs in order to get satisfactory hatches. We get very fertile eggs all the time and mate from three to five frequently with one male. We would not like to go beyond this number as the per cent of fertility would be very apt to run low.

## INCUBATION, BROODING AND FEEDING.

The period of incubation of guinea eggs is about the same as turkeys, twenty-eight days. Guineaes when first hatched are not more than half as large as chicks, but show great vitality just as soon as they leave the shell. Unless you keep close watch on them and have the nest very deep the little fellows will jump out of the nest and run off or be destroyed by cats or other enemies. We make very deep nests for our guinea eggs and as soon as they hatch, remove them from the nest and place in baskets and cover them over very snugly in order to keep them in. We set from four to five hens at a time and give the chicks to about two trusty old hens. We place their brood coops in a safe location away from other fowls as a guinea is just like a turkey and when young will follow most any fowl. As guinea roosters are fierce on baby guineas that are brooded with chicken hens, we watch to keep them out of the brood pens. They catch them just like a crow and fly away with them. Why they do this is a puzzle to me, as a guinea cock will fight until they die for the young when brooded with the natural guinea mother. We do not feed the little fellows a thing for thirty-six hours and then it is a very small amount of wheat bread soaked in sweet milk, and seasoned with black pepper. As soon as the chicks are able to run, we turn them out in the park with the mother hen and feed sparingly on commercial chick food. We give them water just the same as chicks and see that they have plenty of grit.

When the guineas begin to feather, the chicken hen attempts to "wean" them, but she has an everlasting task on her hands. Last season, the hens did every possible way to get rid of the little pests, but could accomplish nothing. When they began to lay again, the guineas would go on the nest with them and sit down around her perfectly contented until the mother left the nest again. One old faithful hen, after she had used all the skill she had and attempted to lay and see life again in real chickendom, gave up in despair and took to brooding the guineas again and remained with them all winter long. Wherever you saw that hen, you would see the entire clutch of grown guineas, with her or near, so that they could come to her assistance at the first approach of danger. The great boldness and snap of the guinea is what makes them so valuable.

## GOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR GAME.

They are among the finest of table fowls. When they are dressed properly, either young or old, and baked slowly, they are just about the best flavored meat of any domestic fowl. They resemble wild game and are now in demand in the best hotels and cafes as a substitute for game.

## FINISHING AND MARKETING GUINEAS.

The demand for guineas has increased so rapidly in the city markets that all efforts to supply this demand has failed. The stringent game laws now in force make it impossible to supply the hotel trade with game meat, hence, the guinea meat comes so closely to the game in flavor that the hotel trade for the well fattened guinea has become great. The flavor of the guinea cannot be detected from many of the highly prized game birds, hence, they furnish an excellent substitute for game birds and are in great demand in many Eastern markets. The general method of preparing the guinea for market is practically the same as that used in preparing any other fowl for market. The guinea fattens more readily than any other fowl raised in confinement and great care is used not to have these birds overly fat, or so fat that the flesh, when dressed, is easily torn. You should find a private market if possible for guineas as that will afford you a much better price.

Almost any high class hotel or cafe will use them and at a fair premium over domestic fowls, if delivered in prime condition and well fattened. The palatability of the guinea is no longer a question. The flesh is highly relished by almost every lover of game flesh. Guineas when dressed have purplish colored flesh, hence, this color is expected and is no barrier on the market. While the color suggests staleness, yet with those that understand this, they look for the natural color and for a gradually lighter color than this if stale. In Europe, guineas are very popular at the leading hotels and are grown in great numbers over a large area of European countries.

### **MARKETING DEMANDS WILL INCREASE.**

We dress guineas for market just the same as turkeys, and pack in boxes. New York buys freely in the fall and ships to England and parts of Europe. There is no real good market in the West for guineas at the present. It is due to the fact that the West gets sufficient wild game to supply the demand. However, the man that will grow a good flock of guineas, will find a good market in the East. The guinea egg is sought after in the Southern and Eastern markets. The Southern cooks always select guinea eggs for cakes and similar purposes if they can get them. Here in the middle west, guinea eggs are not popular, but as the years pass, the demand will become more and more in favor of guinea eggs as they are very highly flavored and are absolutely free from any taint caused by eating filthy food. There is no fowl living that is as clean about their eating as guineas. You will never get a guinea to eat anything but the very best foods; hence, their meat and eggs are always highly flavored. Guineas will come more appreciated here in the West as people learn more of their food value. Some people really think a guinea is not fit to eat because of their flesh being dark, but such individuals are evidently laboring under false impressions, as the better class of people in the East select a guinea for a fancy dinner in preference to any other fowl. Of course, during festive season, there is nothing that can be substituted for the lordly turkey, but almost any other time the guinea comes in as a special and highly prized fowl to make up the choice meats to be served to fashionable guests. When shipping guineas to market, always have your consignment to appear in the very best possible condition as the appearance adds much to the selling value and at the same time indicates that the fowls have been fed and finished in a first class condition. Always market your broiler guineas early in the summer as they will bring the best price at that time, but fatten the old specimens in the fall and offer them then. If you do not care to dress your guineas, ship alive and see that the crates are roomy and equipped with watering devices and just a little feed. We do not like to feed very heavy when we ship alive, as the fowls will go through in much better condition when shipped "lank," but give plenty of water. It must be remembered that the guinea is a tropical fowl and cannot stand severe cold weather. Get your guineas off to market before severe weather sets in and you will have them in better condition and avoid having them chilled in shipping.

With proper care and management, you can grow guineas in large numbers and market at a great profit as they are largely self-supporting and will cost you but little until you begin to finish for the markets. The finishing cost will be comparatively light if the fowls have had free access of range, but to have them plump and the flesh highly flavored, we like to feed them about ten days on corn and wheat, which puts them in fine condition and gives the meat a much higher flavor and makes it slightly more tender and juicy.

### **GUINEAS.**

There are five important things which should be remembered in the raising of guineas.

1. Young guineas should be kept in dry quarters or where they can be protected from the storm. Mature fowls do not suffer from the rain or seem to be affected by it.

2. Provide an abundance of water. They drink a great deal.

3. The young cannot withstand too much sunshine, or too much cold. They must have shade and be comfortable.

4. Avoid frightening them. They don't forget a fright very soon. Catch them only at night and then only to treat them for lice or to examine them.

5. Young guineas are continuous feeders and therefore should have food given frequently instead of starving and then feeding too much at one time, for there is danger of them gorging themselves, and indigestion and death will result.

### **CROSSING GUINEAS AND CHICKENS.**

Guineas can be crossed with the ordinary chicken. You can mate a guinea cock bird with one or more hens in a pen where they can have plenty of range and not be disturbed, or you can mate a vigorous cockerel of any of the American varieties of chickens similar in size or smaller to one or more guinea hens. If they are surrounded by natural breeding conditions and are not disturbed, they will mate and the cross will have the shape of the guinea with guinea head points, and much the same voice of the guinea, but will be much larger in size. The flesh is very fine and the body of the bird is very plump.

## **DUCKS.**

1. What are some of the advantages of the duck business?
2. What sort of a location is suited best for duck raising?
3. What age ducks and drakes should be used for breeders?
4. In what way is a body of water beneficial to ducks?
5. Give a good ration for the breeding ducks.
6. If duck eggs are hatched in incubators, what is required that is not required in hatching chicken eggs?
7. Why is it necessary to have a deep drinking vessel?
8. Why should you introduce new blood in the fall?
9. What are some of the most common diseases with ducks? Name their Causes.

## **GEESE.**

10. What number of females should be mated with each male?
11. Is it best to start with stock or eggs? Why?
12. Why can a goose be kept so cheaply?
13. What is best method of incubating goose eggs?
14. Should we brood the goslings with a chicken hen, an artificial brooder, or with their natural mother?
15. Should they be incubated, brooded and fed much the same as ducks? If not, wherein is the chief difference?
16. How should geese be fed when fattening them for market?

## **GUINEAS.**

17. What particular food value have guineas?
18. What should mature guineas be fed, or should they be kept on range and allowed to select their own foods?
19. What is considered a good method of hatching and brooding the young?
20. Mention briefly five important things which should be borne in mind in raising guineas.

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# Fitting and Exhibiting Standard-Bred Poultry

BY T. E. QUISENBERRY

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## INTRODUCTION

The poultry business might well be defined as having two distinct branches, i. e., the breeding and production of fowls designed to closely approach the requirements of the American Standard of Perfection, and the breeding and production of fowls especially for market and heavy egg laying. We, by no means, mean to convey the impression that the breeder of Standard fowls is not also particular as to his flock's ability to produce. On the contrary he is, or at least should be, a careful student of that important factor in breeding.

If a breeder has become quite proficient in the production of a variety, so that a large portion closely approach Standard requirements, his fowls will then usually be successful in the fall and winter exhibitions, thus gradually building a reputation for his strain as one which produces high standard quality. This reputation made by a breeder's fowls, if taken advantage of by the breeder and properly advertised, creates a demand for his surplus males and females at prices well above the value of fowls for table use. The same is true of the hatching eggs his fowls produce during the entire hatching season. Thus such breeders gain their principal income from the sale of birds for breeding and exhibition use, and from hatching eggs or baby chicks, usually having commercial eggs for market only during the summer and fall months.

The other branch of the business, which is made up of those producing fowls for market and heavy egg production, consists of the vast majority of farmers' wives on the average farm of the Central States and the commercial poultrymen who are generally found devoting all of their time and considerable acreage to poultry, plus being in the business on a large enough scale to enable handling several hundred or thousand females for egg production throughout fall, winter and spring.

Strictly commercial poultry farmers depend very largely upon eggs and poultry sold for table use as their principal source of income. Breeders, who are raising poultry in their back yard and

one or more vacant lots, or as a side line, utilizing only a portion of their time—their main business being of another nature entirely—would usually do much better and derive more pleasure if they would strive to build up a family of some one variety and perfect it until the greater portion of each season's crop of youngsters closely approach Standard requirements. Such breeders would gain more headway by a sincere and thorough effort to breeding for increased egg production at the same time. Breeders of this class do not necessarily need to feel the necessity of a large volume of production each year, and will be the gainer after a few years if they will use the theory of restriction and elimination very vigorously during the season for selecting breeding fowls. In all matings, only fowls should be used for breeding which very closely approach Standard requirements, and which, by their carcass measurements, prove that they have the ability to produce a profitable number of eggs annually.

To gain the full benefit to be derived as a result of breeding fowls close to the Standard requirements, a breeder must place the best birds he is capable of breeding and developing on exhibition at all fairs and winter poultry shows. The larger the exhibit the greater will be its reputation for being a show consisting of birds of high quality, and the greater will be the advertising value of a winning record made at such an exhibit. These lessons are, therefore, intended to assist the breeder in training, developing, feeding and preparing his birds for exhibition, as well as to enable him to handle them to such advantage as will assure them reaching the show room and being in the best of condition when awards are to be placed by the judges.

A breeder's ability to properly accomplish these things, most generally, means the difference between success or failure in the business of producing Standard-bred poultry for breeding and exhibition. We have known hundreds of cases where the difference between first and second awards, or, for that matter, between first and fifth awards to represent only a difference in the owner's ability to properly condition, train and exhibit his birds.

## THE EXHIBITION

### Chapter 1

In our lesson book on "Poultry Clubs and Organizations" we deal quite generally with associations organized primarily for the holding of annual exhibitions, and we explain in detail many important factors for consideration regarding the show room and the management of exhibitions. The breeder in deciding where and when his fowls are to be exhibited must carefully consider the exhibition, its reputation in its own community and among the breeders in the territory from which he has the right to expect his future trade for stock and eggs.

In considering exhibitions, one very important item is the show room. It should have a neat, wholesome and attractive ap-

pearance, thus inviting a liberal attendance of the better class of agriculturists and townspeople. It should have splendid ventilation, without having drafts which would prove injurious to the health of the fowls. It should be capable of being slightly warmed uniformly, without some birds being too cold while others are in close contact with the heat, creating the possibility of placing them out of condition and causing dissatisfaction among exhibitors and a loss to yourself. You run an even chance with other exhibitors of your own birds securing an undesirable location within the show hall.

The show hall should be lighted and so arranged that an abundance of natural light can be alike insured to all exhibitors. The room should be wired with the best of electric lighting, thus permitting evening visitors to view the birds easily and to the best advantage. Many new breeders are created and many new customers secured from among those who are able to attend these exhibitions only during the evening. There must be ample floor space to permit the cooping of the entire exhibit, and still leave aisles at least four feet wide. The building should be conveniently located so that town and country folks alike may visit it without loss of much time in going to and fro.

In most cities or small towns there are usually one or more prominent buildings, auditoriums or halls which have a reputation for housing the best affairs of this kind. Such buildings should always be obtained for poultry exhibitions, when possible. If poultry exhibitions are held in such places, its reputation as a show hall usually goes far toward insuring a successful attendance at the exhibition.

Buildings used for poultry exhibitions should never be fire-traps. We have known of one or two occasions where a building, containing the greater portion of the best bred fowls in a community, burned, thus proving a serious set-back to the poultry industry in that section.

A building containing a room for exhibition use which is slightly longer than it is wide, with an entrance practically in the center of one end and good light coming in from each side of it, usually permits of a wide aisle running lengthwise through the center, while the row of exhibition cages may run from this wide center aisle out to within a few feet of each side of the building. This arrangement permits the flow of visitors to come in during the rush hours with very little, if any, congestion, and they can go immediately to the aisles containing any particular variety in which they are interested. At the same time it affords, as a general rule, the best uniform light for practically all exhibits. Birds on exhibit in shows using this method of coop arrangement are usually insured more uniform comfort and are not as likely to be in a draft as the result of the continuous opening and closing of the entrance door.

The building should be of such size that it will permit of a wide center aisle, with cross rows on each side of the center sufficiently long to permit the average double row of cages to handle

all birds entered of one variety, without double decking the exhibition coops. Double decking is a practice employed by show managements only through necessity and on account of show halls being too small. Birds shown under those conditions seldom ever appear at their best. The judge is forced to look at those in the upper deck and see nothing but breast, shape and underline, whereas when he looks down upon those in the lower decking he sees mainly their head points, general profile, breadth and length of back, etc. It is found that the same light seldom reflects upon the color of those shown in the upper deck as upon those directly beneath in the lower deck. This often creates a hardship upon the judge and tends towards a possibility of slight errors in his decision.

## SHOW MANAGEMENT

### Chapter 2

Before deciding upon the exhibit in which he shall enter his birds, the breeder might well take into consideration the management of the various poultry exhibitions. Sanitation is, above all other things, the most important consideration. Some show managements pay very little, if any, attention to this important part of conducting a successful poultry exhibition.

Where poultry associations furnish the exhibition cages and drinking fountains, the management should thoroughly spray and disinfect these articles of equipment. During the week of the exhibition some good deodorant and insecticide should be sprayed upon the floor of the cages and about the aisles each evening after the closing hour.

Unhealthy fowls should not be permitted entrance to the show hall. Fowls which contract diseases or sickness of any nature during the life of an exhibition, should at once be removed from their allotted place and exiled in a different room or hospital section. It is often advisable for such specimens to be returned immediately to their owners.

The bedding used in the exhibition cages should be changed every other morning. The attendant in charge of feeding and watering should understand his business and be careful not to slop or spill water on the floor of the cages. Cages bedded with medium coarse sawdust chips or clipped shavings are decidedly more sanitary than those bedded with hay or straw. Sawdust chips act as an absorbent for the droppings or for any water which might become spilled upon the floor of the cage.

Many white birds have their breast feathers and lower fluff feathers badly stained and discolored, as a result of droppings adhering to hay and straw, which causes them to appear at a decided disadvantage. This is less likely to occur where coarse sawdust is used for bedding. Many exhibitors object to the coarse sawdust chips for bedding on the theory that their fowls consume too much of it for food; nevertheless, the fact remains, that the leading exhibitors of the world, including New York. Chi-

cago, and Kansas City, use this style of bedding. The best breeders of our country, now accustomed to sawdust, would raise a storm of protest should managements of these shows go back to straw for litter.

Metal receptacles should be provided for grain and water. Feed should never be thrown promiscuously upon the floor of the cage.

Whole and well sifted cracked grains should be used for feeding fowls on exhibition. The amount provided should be ample, but care should be taken not to overfeed. As a general rule, a medium sized handful of grain early in the morning and another about six o'clock in the evening will give the best results. This should always be put in the special receptacle provided for that purpose. Should the party in charge of the feeding find a quantity left from the previous meal, it is best not to give much additional, if any, at the time. Succulent green feed should be furnished every fowl on exhibition, at least every other day.

Show managements should have a rule, and insist upon it being rigidly practiced, whereby judges are permitted the unhampered and sole usage of the aisle containing the class on which they are working. All visitors should be barred from that section until the work of judging has been completed. This will expedite and hasten the placing of awards and insure against mistakes due to the judge's mind being taken from his work by breeders and spectators.

Show associations known to have a superintendent and assistants with a reputation for speed and accuracy and, also, for the careful checking and receiving of all exhibits from express companies, as well as for thoroughness in shipping home all exhibits, should receive more consideration from exhibitors than if this were not their practice.

Associations having a live wire secretary and press agent, who tend strictly to the duties of their office, who are thorough and accurate in recording all awards, and who are efficient in securing as much publicity for the awards of the exhibit as possible, should, by all means, be given a preference.

Exhibitors are the gainers where the judging is completed on the first day, and the award cards or ribbons placed upon the cages and the announcements of the decisions made to the public without any great loss of time. The public includes the prospective purchasers of hatching eggs and baby chicks. More sales of stock will be made in the show, and more orders for eggs and chicks will be booked, when awards are made and announced quickly than would otherwise be the case.

The entrance or exhibition fee, charged by poultry show organizations, is of more importance than is usually thought for. We find, where the entrance fee is so large as to displease some exhibitors, that the reputation of the show as one where uniform high quality is found is greater than where a smaller entrance fee

prevails. This adds value to a winning made at such an exhibition.

The premium money should not be considered of as great importance as the reputation that the association has for annually bringing out good classes, containing choice quality. After all, the object in exhibiting is to make a reputation for your fowls, so as to increase the likelihood of obtaining desirable customers who are willing to pay the true worth of your birds, eggs or chicks.

## **POULTRY SHOW ORGANIZATION**

### **Chapter 3**

The permanency of an organization lends value to a winning made at its annual exhibition. Unless an organization is founded upon strict business principles, unless it is largely dominated and controlled by men and women of known integrity and efficiency, and unless the conduct of its affairs and the management of its exhibitions are based upon a profit making basis, then such organizations and exhibitions are short lived.

It is of great importance to you as an exhibitor that an association be able, each season, to meet all its obligations and thus continue in existence, than for you to receive a slightly larger premium check. Though you exhibit at a certain exhibition but once, just so long as the organization continues to live and hold an annual exhibition, the record of your fowls, made during a previous season, remains alive, and is of much greater advertising value than would be the case if the annual exhibitions of that association were to be discontinued.

The officers should have business ability, and should be men and women of even temper, pleasing to meet and willing workers. They should be very closely affiliated with the Standard-bred Poultry Industry. They should be people who are capable of securing financial support from the citizens of their community, their county or state government, and capable of securing a patronage for their exhibitions which will insure its financial success.

## **PRODUCING EXHIBITION QUALITY**

### **Chapter 4**

Exhibition fowls are usually the result of efficiency in mating and breeding, in the housing and feeding of parent stock, and in the hatching, brooding and rearing of youngsters. This takes in the broad field of feed, water, ventilation, soil and other conditions surrounding the youngsters from the time they are baby chicks until they are prepared for the exhibition cage. Health and vigor in the parentage is the first and principal requisite. Without this as a foundation, the breeder is handicapped, regardless of what other exterior and apparent quality the parent stock

may have. We shall not endeavor to go thoroughly into the subject of egg production or rearing of fowls more than is actually necessary, leaving that to our other books and lessons directly pertaining to that branch of the work.

It must be remembered that "like begets like" in the breeding of fowls only when extreme care has been taken in mating the blood lines back of one's fowls for many generations to insure against the existence of any foreign or undesirable qualities in a more or less dominant form.

If the practice of rigid selection, the restriction of all fowls with any decidedly undesirable qualities, has been practiced for several generations; if the health and vigor of a family of fowls are maintained and improved upon, and if care and discretion has been practiced in breeding only from fowls fully developed to maturity and known to have attained this development within a certain length of time, without showing backwardness in the growing of flesh, bone or feathers, the chances are then greatly in favor of the poultryman producing a large per cent of chicks, which will develop into birds possessing Standard qualities to a high degree.

To raise and develop fowls of a desirable quality, chicks must be well hatched. It is more profitable to rid a brood of any apparently weak chicks during the first ten days or two weeks, than to endeavor to keep them longer. The slow growers seldom, if ever, make fowls of good exhibition or breeding quality.

## THE ADVANTAGE GAINED FROM EXHIBITING

### Chapter 5

The poultry exhibition is the main factory in maintaining the Standard-bred poultry industry at its present high peak. Poultry breeders in general, and particularly the smaller ones, apparently fail to appreciate the value of exhibiting their birds at some poultry exhibition, either large or small.

If one is breeding to produce show or Standard-bred stock, the poultry exhibition is the necessary basis of advertising. One cannot expect to sell choice, Standard-bred fowls, unless they have proven their quality at some poultry exhibition. One cannot advertise such stock effectively and successfully, unless a show room record is the basis of the advertising.

Doubtless many will disagree with me in this respect, but, I dare to repeat, it is the poultry exhibition that is holding the poultry industry in its present high esteem. I have arrived at this conclusion after studying the past history of breeds and varieties and from observations and experiences and by a thorough study of present day conditions. It is almost beyond contradiction that when a breed or variety has failed to hold its own in a show room, it has gone down, and gone down quickly. On the other hand, when that breed has witnessed renewed activity in the

show room it again rapidly gains prestige among the producers of commercial poultry and eggs.

We, of course, admit that it is the breeds and varieties, especially in the agricultural sections of America, that have proven unadapted to heavy egg production or to rapid growth for broiler meat, which have first lost their popularity in the show room. We must also admit that a very large per cent of the poultry breeders of America, those, at least, who are breeding a good quality of Standard-bred fowls, became interested in good poultry through a visit to some show room.

It is my idea that the constant striving for an ideal in the show room has brought uniformity for the breeder who likes to style himself a pure "utility" breeder. Uniformity in all parts must necessarily include size of body, size of eggs, color and texture of eggs and a hundred other items that must be considered in the successful utility plant.

Constant breeding of fowls up to the Standard of Perfection has brought to the Leghorn its high record as a layer of pure white eggs of established size. The ideal or box-car shape, and the uniformly Standard red color has made possible the popularity of the Rhode Island Red; so it goes with all of our popular breeds that are so constructed to likewise be of practical value.

For the market we must have uniformity in size and color. The day of little eggs and big eggs, white eggs and brown eggs, all in the same crate, is a day of the past. It is the breeding to the Standard of Perfection, and the exhibiting of the product of our efforts in poultry shows that has brought this about.

It is presumed that the reader is essentially interested in high class, Standard-bred stock. It is presumed that he will have surplus breeding birds, exhibition birds, baby chicks and hatching eggs for sale. This being the case, he must build a reputation for his fowls; he must prove their quality in the show room, in order to get the true worth of his fowls when he markets them for any other purpose than table use.

It requires more than the winning of "blue ribbons" in order to make a success of selling fowls and eggs at a profit. I know of breeders who have made fortunes out of winning a few blue ribbons at some of the world's greatest shows. I know of other breeders who could not turn a million blue ribbons into ten cents' worth of business. The value of winnings at all shows is the same to all exhibitors at the moment the judge awards the ribbons, but from that moment the little piece of ribbon means something else entirely. What is to be gained by the ribbon depends entirely upon the breeder and his ability in "cashing in," so to speak, upon the reputation which this ribbon symbolizes. On the other hand, much depends upon whether or not the exhibitor in question is a real breeder, whether or not he really has the knowledge of how he produced the bird that won this ribbon, or whether in the future he is going to be able to maintain this standard of quality,



generally, in his entire flock, and among the birds which he sells to his customers.

## SELECTING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION

### Chapter 6

The most important work, perhaps, towards making a prize winning record is the proper selection of the fowls prior to the show. Very often novices at breeding and selecting exhibition poultry leave some of their very best birds at home, or they fail to exhibit at all, feeling that their own birds are not of sufficient quality to stand a chance in competition with the birds exhibited by larger and, perhaps, better known breeders.

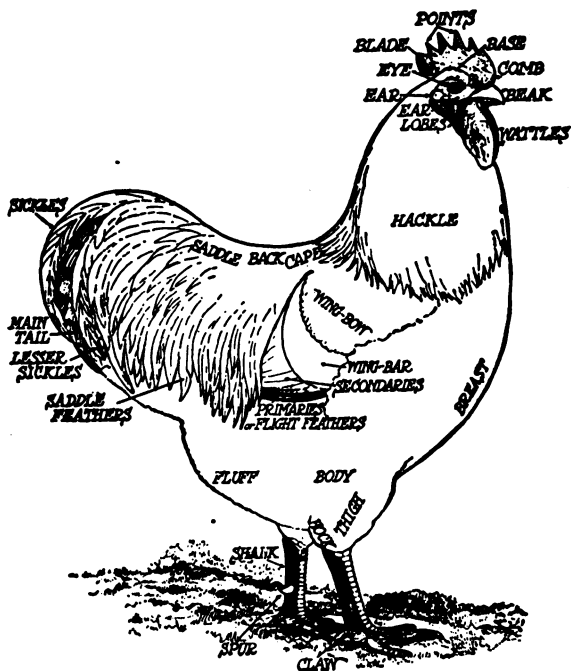


Fig 1.

Many of the terms and expressions used in this lesson will be more or less misunderstood, unless we can make things plain in advance. This illustration gives a partial nomenclature of a fowl. It shows the different sections and the proper terms or names by which they are commonly known.

To succeed in the show room, or in the work of breeding good exhibition poultry, a breeder must have a thorough knowledge of the Standard requirements which cover his particular breed and variety. It is not our purpose in this lesson to undertake the teaching of the Standard requirements of any particular breed or variety, but we do deem it of vital necessity to point out a few

of the pitfalls and general disqualifications which many exhibitors, both experienced and inexperienced, often overlook when selecting and preparing their birds for exhibition.

One common, and, perhaps, the most common, error made by exhibitors, is the overlooking of a small piece of "down" or the stub of a feather growing out on the legs or between the toes.

Judges will disqualify any clean legged variety whenever any such feather or piece of "down" is found on the legs or toes of a bird. One cannot be too careful in examining between the toes for a small hair-like feather growing there. This is especially true in the case of Leghorns, Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Polish and Hamburgs, and, in fact, all varieties should be examined.

We have often, in judging fowls and visiting show rooms, seen cases where single entries or entire exhibition pens have been disqualified, due to one male or female in the pen having a slightly wry tail, crooked back, or one hip a little lower or a little higher than the other one. All of these defects and disqualifications should be carefully looked for in selecting birds for exhibition.



Fig. 2.

**A fowl having a wry tail which disqualifies it from winning.**

Again, we find that a very large per cent of the birds in the various show rooms are inclined to be knock-kneed and do not stand firmly and squarely upon their legs and lack the proper distance between their knees. This is not a disqualification, but it is a serious defect. It denotes a physical weakness, besides detracting greatly from the general typical carriage or symmetrical appearance of the fowl.

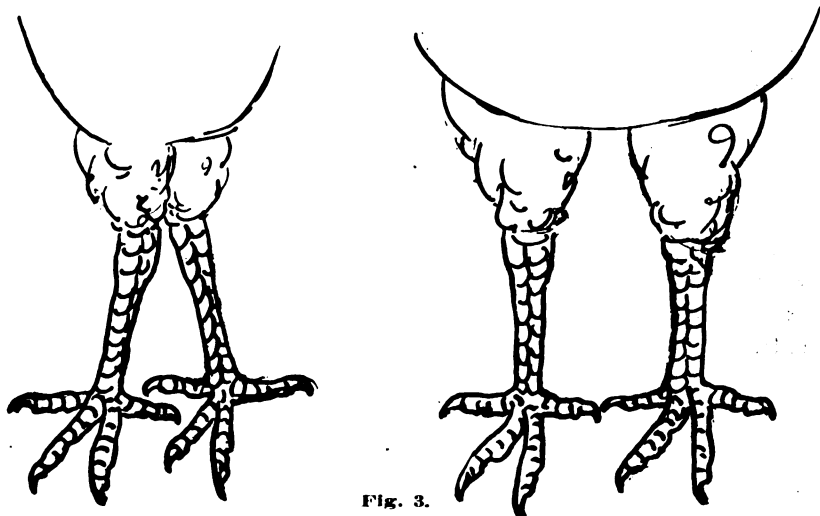


Fig. 3.

A knock-kneed, narrow breasted fowl; also a fowl standing squarely upon its legs and having the proper distance between them.

The texture of the comb should be carefully examined before finally deciding upon the particular bird to make up a show string. The combs of some birds, especially on males, are inclined to be so fine, so thin in texture that the ordinary heat in a show room, or even the heat in the express car in which the birds are forced to travel, will cause slight comb enlargements. This is a serious defect. Combs which lop sufficiently will disqualify the specimen.

Other things being comparatively equal, for exhibition purposes one should always endeavor to select male birds with firm, stout combs, thus eliminating the chance of the combs "going bad," either en route or in the show room.

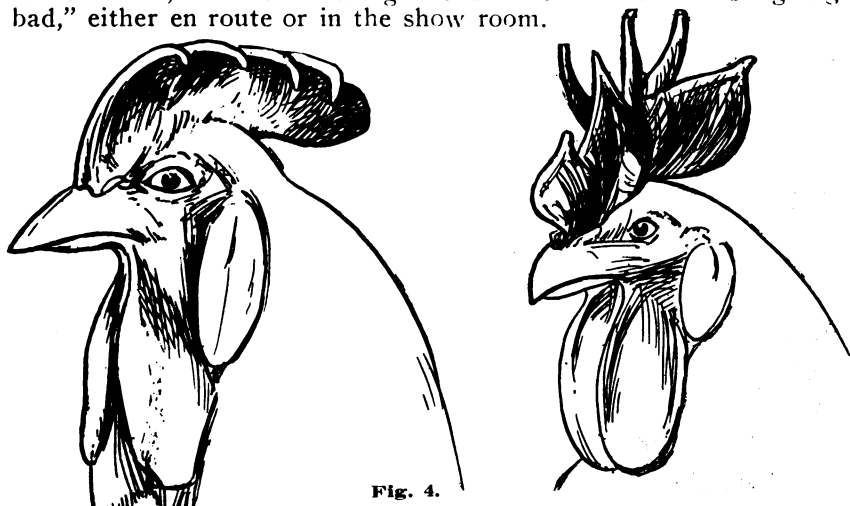


Fig. 4.

Showing a beak which should be sandpapered off at the point to make it fit the under beak as near as possible. The comb also should be covered with a handkerchief saturated with ether for about thirty minutes. By repeating this process three or four times in the course of a few hours it will sufficiently shrink the blood and heat from the comb and greatly assist it to straighten up.

Another very common defect, which we find upon many birds in the show, is one or more slightly crooked toes, as shown in Figure 5. This could frequently be overcome by the exhibitors, if the tendency towards this defect is noticed while the bird is very young and undeveloped. Very often a specimen with a crooked toe is exhibited, while birds which are otherwise practically its equal are left at home. While this defect is not a disqualification, it nearly always means the difference between winning and not winning, or, at least, the difference between a high or a low award, especially if competition is at all close and is made up of fowls of extra good quality.

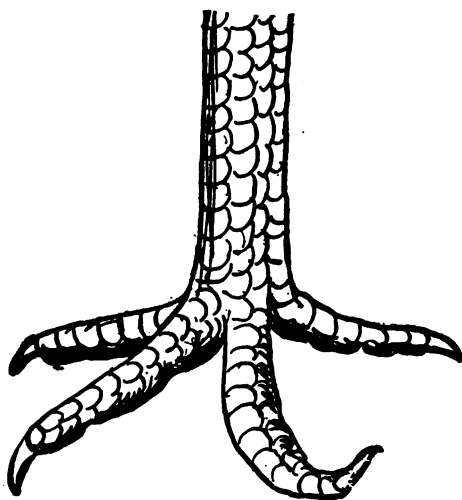


Fig. 5.

At the better shows, we seldom ever find a fowl with a squirrel tail, as illustrated in Figure 6, although this is not at all uncommon at fall fairs and local shows, which have numbered among their exhibitors breeders who are novices at the business.

In the case of Leghorns, Anconas, or other light-weight fowls, it is difficult to determine whether or not such males are squirrel-tailed or merely excited. When birds are more or less disturbed, nervous in disposition, etc., they are inclined to throw their tails to a higher angle than that which is natural for them.

Care should be taken to select a bird having a tail carried so that it will not be thrown out of the proper angle should the bird become disturbed or excited. Special care should be taken that no bird having a squirrel-tail is exhibited, as this is a disqualification.

A specimen that has what is known as a "slipped" or loose wing, should seldom, if ever, be selected for exhibition, as this is a serious breeding defect, which is looked upon by a judge with decided ill favor. Unless one finds it absolutely necessary to show such a specimen in order to complete an exhibition, it is better to leave it at home. Of course, if such a fowl is otherwise unusually good and this defect is not at all exaggerated, such a specimen can sometimes be shown with profit.

Wing weakness can be overcome, to a certain extent, if the fowl is taken in hand at an age when it is growing out its wing feathers.

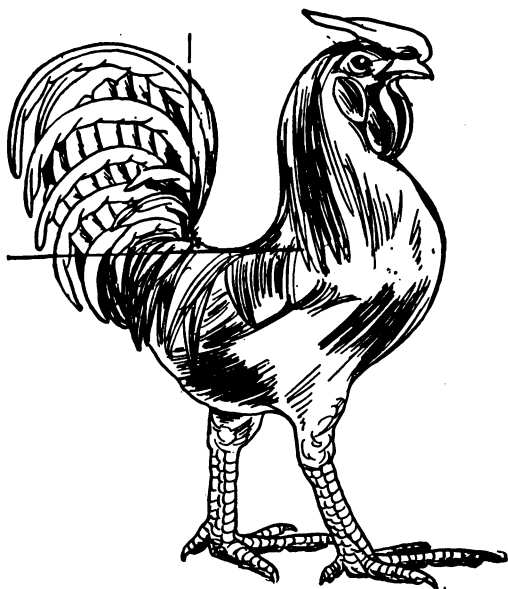


Fig. 6.

It seldom pays to put off the selection of your birds until just before the time to exhibit. On the contrary, for several days and weeks beforehand, the breeder should watch the gradual development and changes taking place from day to day, as the old stock develops a new cloak of plumage and the young birds near development. In his own mind, the breeder must picture the entry he desires to make and the number of birds of the different sexes and ages necessary to fill that entry. With that in mind, he must begin selecting and marking, by leg banding, the birds which appear the most promising for this purpose.

In selecting a bird for exhibition, one must consider: Firstly, the bird as a whole; secondly, section by section, giving due respect and consideration to the Standard of Perfection and its scale of values covering the shape and color of each section.

A breeder must, regardless of variety, pay considerable attention to head points, especially comb shape, eyes, ear-lobes, and color. These sections of a bird, if decidedly defective, will so appeal to the first glance of the judge and spectators that the bird

can seldom hope to be placed among the leading winners, especially if the competition is made up of birds containing a normal amount of quality. The next important thing to consider is shape and general size. This is more important in the case of solid colored fowls such as Buff, White or Black varieties. The shape and size of a solid colored fowl is more often noticed by the judges than in the case of parti-colored varieties. Shape never escapes the judges' attention in any way, though there are varieties having a Standard color scheme requirement especially difficult to

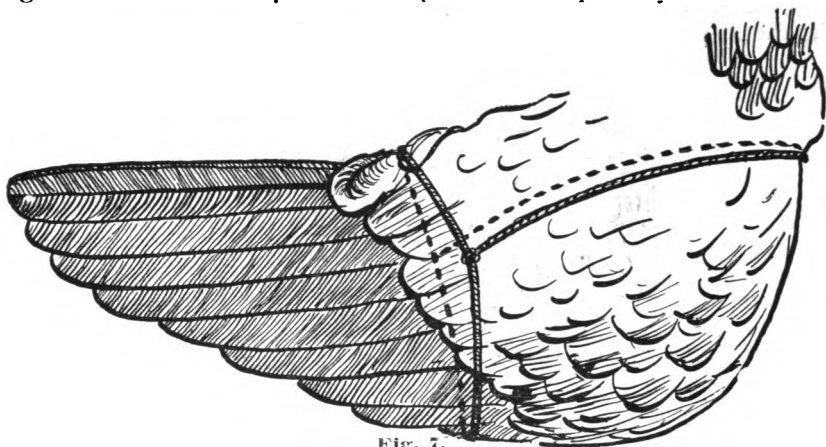


Fig. 7.

This illustration shows what is known as the wing "hobble," sometimes used to prevent birds from flying over fences and at other times used with success in strengthening a weakly carried wing. It is usually made of self-sticking tape, placing the gummed side of the tape outward, away from the feathers.

attain, wherein we occasionally find birds exceptionally good in color which are out in shape in one or more sections and are still considered extremely valuable by breeders and judges alike. This is more often found true in varieties like the Barred Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, Silver Wyandotte, and other parti-colored varieties of this character. The bird with medium good color, typical shape, good size, splendid plumage condition and good head points, is usually a hard specimen to beat in competition.

Extreme care must always be taken to examine every bird thoroughly for disqualifying points before it becomes a candidate for a place in one's string of exhibition birds.

General surface color is usually of more importance than undercolor, although in most varieties competition is usually so keen that the undercolor must be very nearly equal to the surface color or the bird will stand very little chance of receiving an award.

Unless it is absolutely necessary, no bird should ever be placed in your show string which has a serious defect in any section, regardless of how good it might be in every other way. No birds are produced perfect. None are free from minor defects. It is preferable to exhibit a bird having several minor defects than a bird having a striking defect in some one section, which is so noticeable that it will be seen immediately by both judges and visitors. Large beefy combs, decidedly unsymmetrical birds, a de-

cidedly brassy or creamy tint on the surface plumage of white birds, and tail carriage altogether too high are serious defects often found. Evenness of color and harmonious blending in all sections is a desirable asset in any exhibition fowl, regardless of breed or variety.

There are exceptions to all rules, but when possible birds should be selected, tentatively at least, two months before the exhibition date. On rare occasions, one can go out among his fowls and select birds a few days before the exhibit, but they will not be in as good condition as if they were selected far in advance and special work and care given them. In reality, the time to begin getting the bird ready for exhibition and the show room is when you mate the sire and dam. This simply means that the finest exhibition specimens are products of skill in breeding and rearing, and not merely in skill of conditioning or selecting birds. The latter two points are but the final "toilet" which helps the bird to look its best.

Our largest and most successful exhibitors and breeders watch their birds carefully from shell to show room. This means a steady growth without a set-back, and with every help towards perfection of form and color. Feed alone will not make show birds. Plumage must be protected from sunburn; combs must be developed evenly; ear-lobes and wattles must be kept from wrinkling and blistering. Imperfection of combs, lobes and wattles are more often the result of injury during the growing period than of heredity.

This should more clearly emphasize the importance of selecting the most likely looking exhibition specimens as far in advance of the show date as possible.

It must be assumed that the average breeder is already aware of the qualities of his old fowls, therefore, we can think of no excuse for not selecting the most likely exhibition birds from among the older ones, at least 60 to 90 days in advance, for any exhibition he is contemplating making.

It is important to allow all the time possible so that one can examine the birds as to their condition of plumage and, if necessary, assist them through the moult or in developing plumage on any section. It is highly important that old birds, especially cocks, are as nearly finished in hackle, saddle and tail covert plumage as possible. This adds greatly to the general appearance of a cock bird. Male birds, especially cocks, should be fat at the time of exhibition. This helps their general shape, general appearance and means they are much more likely to carry away the coveted prize.

There is much work to be done in properly preparing birds for exhibition, especially old birds, such as looking after the general color, the condition of the scales on their legs, and the condition of the plumage, and often much work is required to overcome any bad habits of comb twisting, etc. This all requires time.

In other chapters we have given the details regarding these necessary and important items or work. Show room success should be the ambition of every fancier, and no part of his work is more important than training himself to be well skilled in the fitting of

his birds that they may receive at first glance the favorable consideration of the judge.

The inexperienced exhibitor often overfits his birds. Please do not understand, because we urge that birds should be selected well in advance of exhibition, that they must have too much work done on them. When a bird has been cooped and worked with and pampered until it has "gone by" it makes quite as poor an impression in the show room as though it had been incompletely conditioned.

Young birds quite often do better if permitted to run at range until two or three weeks before show time. However, they should be well separated and only a few birds allowed to house or roost together. The male birds, especially the heavier ones, should be brought up two or three weeks before show time and placed in small houses by themselves, where they should receive more or less hand feeding, being given all they will consume of feed which will grow plumage and flesh.

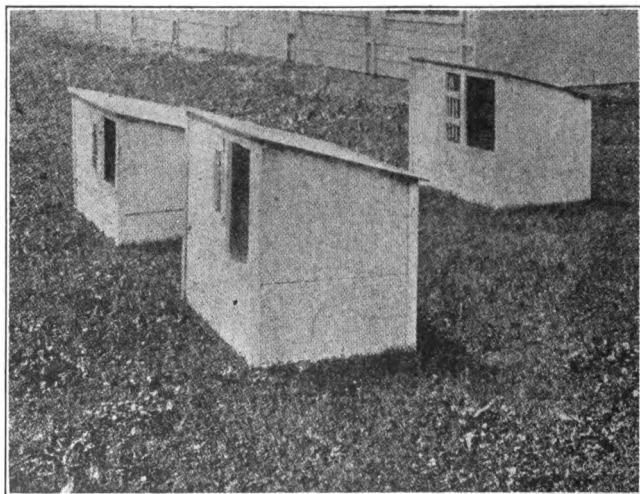


Fig. 8.

Cock Moulting and Conditioning Coop to be used out of doors, and can be placed as close together as desirable so as to lessen time and labor. In the case of white birds or birds which are easily affected by rain or sunshine, it is desirable to place male birds, early hatched cockerels and old cock birds in these houses during the summer and fall. Not more than one bird, however, should be placed in a coop. In the event that birds are being trained over a considerable period of time in training exhibition coops it is well to place them out in one of these coops during a few hours of the day, at least every third or fourth day, so as to give them additional exercise. In breeds requiring male birds to have heavy breasts and bodies and that should not appear too lankey or long legged, it is often advisable to pick out the most promising cockerels when they are about four-fifths developed and



confine them to one of these small houses for a period of from three to six weeks. Let them out semi-occasionally for a little additional exercise and natural grubs and worms. By so doing it is surprising how they will fill out and settle down on their legs. These coops are usually built about three feet wide and four to five feet long, not over three feet eight inches high in front and two feet ten inches high in the rear. See Fig. 8.

The most important fact of all in the final selection of a bird for exhibition should be its physical condition. To this the bird owes its value and attractiveness which, first of all, is noticed and admired by judges and visitors.

A bird should carry all its main wing and main tail feathers and none of these should be broken. The cuts which the judges are instructed, by the Standard of Perfection, to make for these missing or broken feathers are so great that, in close competition, a bird so handicapped can seldom win a blue or red ribbon.

A very important matter for consideration in the final selection of birds for the show is the matter of weight, and especially is this true in score card shows. Everyone should inform himself as to the exact Standard weights which his particular variety should weigh in the show room in order for his fowls to pass without a cut.

In selecting probable exhibition birds, it is vitally important to bear in mind those that have the proper style, the proper form and frame on which to place the proper amount of flesh to make the bird appear at its best, and to insure that it will measure up to Standard requirements for weight.

Our English cousins show their birds in splendid condition. They are likewise noted for always having birds of good size; birds that are heavy boned. They breed for heavy bone; they feed for it; they get it. Both are an index to strength and health.

The condition of a chicken in its highest exhibition state is a curious thing. It is a mixture of natural and hand polish. The breeder must have a good quality fowl or foundation to begin with, or the best fitter can never finish the bird to the best advantage.

## MOULTING

### Chapter 7

#### Feeding During the Moulting Period

The cow, horse and other animals, which carry a coat of hair, shed their hair in the spring and put on a new and thinner coat for the summer. Hens moult in the late summer or fall and put on a new winter coat at that time. The old feathers die during the summer and many of them fall out from time to time. At moulting time, all of the old feathers die and are cast off, and an entire new coat is grown.

Inasmuch as there is one-fifth as much nitrogen in the feathers as there is in the entire body of a fowl, it is obvious that the manufacture of an entire new cloak of plumage in such a short length of time is an enormous strain on a fowl's system. A fowl's

feathers represent about five per cent of the total weight, and there are about 8,000 feathers on every bird. Some hens moult twice in a single year. It usually takes hens from two to three months to entirely complete the moult. Older birds moult more slowly and do not shed feathers as rapidly as younger ones. Hens usually stop the production of eggs either during or just preceding their moulting period.

When a hen stops laying in the summer or early fall, she usually starts moulting. The later a hen lays into the summer or the longer she lays, the greater will be her production of eggs for the year. The high producer is the late layer, hence, the late moulter. If nature is allowed to take its course, it usually requires about six weeks for a hen to completely renew the main primary wing feathers.

We can influence, to a great extent, the moulting period in different ways. If it is desirable to have certain individuals among the females moult early, care should be taken to separate them from the other hens and their feeding rations should be changed. The object, in this event, is to have them cease laying and get a little thin in flesh. Egg-making feed should then be supplied them. This will bring on an early moult.

Hens which are to be exhibited at a later date should be handled differently. Care should be taken not to change their living conditions, to overcome any tendency towards their becoming too fat, and not to make any decided change in the application of their feed or the formula of same. In other words, keep them under a laying strain and producing eggs up to about eight weeks prior to the exhibition where it is intended they shall be sent.

When hens stop their production of eggs, is the time they are most likely to go into the moult. This being the case, cultivate the late layers and handle your fowls so as to prevent summer moulting, as hot weather moulting seldom produces the texture or quality of feather, or the color desired.

A steady drain on the system exists at moulting time, and the fowls must have feed rich in protein, fat, and feather building materials. This feed must be rich in nitrogen. It is best to add a little more meat feed and some Old Process Oil Meal at this time. Sunflower seed is also excellent.

We increase the amount of the whole corn or corn chop during the moulting period. Corn chop is better if of good quality, as the work of digestion is then partly accomplished. We use the same mash as we ordinarily use, but add to every one hundred pounds of the mash ten pounds of O. P. linseed meal and fifteen pounds of beef scraps. We do not add this all at once. Thirty-three and one-third per cent of the increase of both linseed meal and beef scraps is added each week, for a period of three weeks. Even then, we watch their bowel action closely, and if there is any indication of diarrhea we reduce the amount of these two ingredients slightly and add from two to four pounds of powdered charcoal to each one hundred pounds of the mash.

We do not believe in the extreme method of starving the hen for a period of from three to five weeks before the moult in order to get her exceptionally thin in flesh and to loosen her feathers, as this, all too often, so weakens her constitution as to make it impossible for her to produce feathers of the proper texture and character.

In the case of highly colored birds, such as Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Golden Wyandottes, etc., we find when starved too severely prior to the moult, the hens seem to be lacking in certain mineral elements necessary to reproduce the desired quality of color in their next cloak of plumage.

When starving a hen completely down in flesh, which can be done by placing her on a ration of green feed and water from three to five weeks, we find that the hen draws upon her own body for certain minerals necessary to her health and strength. The old expression "they die hard" fits the case here. Before a hen will give up her flesh and desire for more of these elements, she will draw upon the mineral contents of her own body until finally she is so weak and thin as to be unable to stand.

We have found it desirable, when the date has been selected for moulting certain males or females, to take all heating feed from their ration, such as corn meal, gluten meal, dairy chops, cracked corn, etc. In fact, we feed them on a mixture of succulent green feed twice a day and, if possible, we grind this up in a meat grinder and add a mixture of equal parts of wheat bran, wheat shorts and ground oats, and to this is added five per cent of O. P. Oil Meal by weight.

A sufficient amount of this ground grain mixture is added to the ground succulent green feed to absorb the moisture from same. It is desirable that this mixture be fed to the chickens in a crumbly state, and it should be given to them two or three times a day. It must be remembered that ground or chopped succulent green feed rapidly becomes stale and loses much of its mineral contents and value. Only enough for one feeding should be ground at a time. It will be seen that the preponderance of this moistened mash is made up of the succulent green feed, thus supplying the hens with certain elements necessary to keep them in a good physical condition and yet, at the same time, have the effect of reducing them in flesh. We would not follow this practice to exceed ten days or two weeks. During this time, however, it is desirable to handle the individuals, and if it is found there are any short stubs of feathers in the center of the back or over thighs of any hens, caused by the males treading them during breeding season and breaking off the plumage, we would advise plucking these stubs. Often it is found necessary to use a pair of tweezers in order to get out the short stubs of feathers. In the case of the main wing and main tail feathers of males or females that have been given "starvation treatment," so to speak, for ten days, we occasionally feel of the main wing and tail feathers to determine whether or not they are becoming loose. If loose, it is often desirable to pluck them. Main wing feathers should not all be

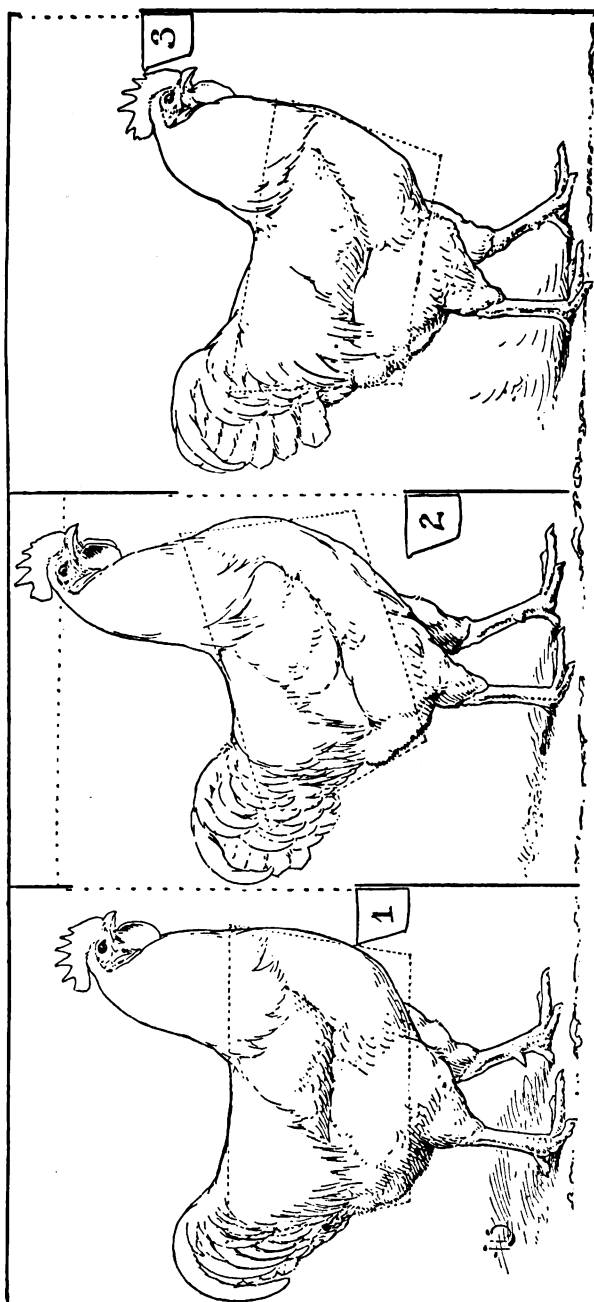


Fig. 24.

This illustration was drawn by Artist F. L. Sewell of the Reliable Poultry Journal of Quincy, Illinois. These three outlines illustrate habits of carriage in breeds that fanciers desire to have carry their bodies almost horizontally or on the "level."

Fig. 1 shows a coop with an opening in front, represented by the dotted lines, the opening being so placed that it encourages ideal carriage. No. 2 shows where the opening should be placed for a fowl that is inclined to carry the front part of its body high. Make the opening for the feeding and watering cup low down and thus encourage the bird to lower the front part of its body, and to form the habit of carrying it in that manner. No. 3 shows a coop arranged with feed and water cups and the opening for view high up in front in order to induce the habit of the higher carriage of head and breast of an individual fowl that habitually carries himself too low in front. Artist Sewell has perhaps visited the yards of as many noted breeders and has been in the aisles a careful handler and observer of as many of the best birds of the world as any other single individual, therefore, his suggestions along the above line are of added value.

plucked at one time, but, starting with the main primary wing feathers, we pluck one or two of them every other day, care always being taken to hold the shoulder of the wing firmly and to pull the main wing feathers straight out, so as not to injure the cell from which the feather grows. The same care should be exercised in pulling main tail feathers.

In the case of male birds, it is often desirable to pluck a few of the hackle or neck feathers at a point well down on the neck or at the junction of the neck and shoulders. As a rule, these are the last neck feathers moulted.

If a bird shows signs of moulting early he can be hurried in the process by picking the old feathers, a few each day, but this also requires some experience, for unless one is careful he is liable to do more harm than good. A safe plan is to dip one hand in water, shaking off the surplus, then rubbing the dampened hand over the feathers rather vigorously, always in the same direction as the feathers lay. Many feathers will stick to the damp palm. These are ripe ones that were about ready to fall out, but which thus come out a week or ten days before they naturally would. This should be repeated every few days and will do the bird no harm, and hurries up the moult considerably.

It is not advisable to change suddenly from the starvation method of feeding to full force feeding. It is better to increase the feed gradually, keeping a dry mash before them only two or three hours per day from seven to ten days. After that the dry mash hoppers should be open all day. At first, give only one moistened mash per day, just what they will consume in ten or fifteen minutes, gradually increasing the amount until you are giving two moistened mashes per day, all they will consume in thirty or thirty-five minutes. The mashes should be moistened with sour milk, butter milk, whole or skimmed milk. If this is not available, procure a few fresh green bones. Boil them from six to seven hours; season with salt; dilute with four parts hot water, and use this liquid to moisten mashes. Left over bone soup can be placed in an air-tight jar and kept in a cool place two or three days, but must be heated again when used.

The same practice should be followed in feeding scratch grain. At the start put the fowls on a ration of one pint to each twenty-five fowls. This must be scattered at the break of day, or after dark in the evening, into dry, crisp litter. One and one-half pints of scratch grain should be given to the same number of fowls one hour before roosting time. We prefer oat straw for litter. It has a brighter color and is free from beards so common in wheat straw, which often injures the eye-sight. Increase this amount gradually, until within a week or ten days you are feeding a pint to each ten females in the morning, and a pint and one-half in the evening one hour before roosting time. As you increase the amount of moistened mash and scratch grain, observe carefully the appetites of the fowls. Do not increase the volume of feed more rapidly than they consume it and thoroughly clean it up.

The drinking vessels must be kept perfectly clean and amply filled. In addition to fresh water, milk in some form is advisable as a drink, if it can be obtained, but do not use sour or butter milk one day and sweet the next. Use one or the other continuously, or do without. It is very necessary that an ample supply of some kind of good hard, medium size grit be available and handy for the hens to consume at will. Oyster or lime shells will not take the place of hard granite or mica grit for the purpose of grinding up the feed thoroughly and rapidly as it passes through the gizzard.

Providing these grains are available, and providing you mix your own scratch grain, we would recommend the following as a very good scratch grain ration:

- 75 lbs. of sifted cracked corn.
- 25 lbs. of whole wheat.
- 5 lbs. of sunflower seed.

The following mash mixture fed in connection with the above scratch grain is desirable, although somewhat complicated, and in some territories our students would be unable to procure all of these ingredients. In which event, a different mash formula must be provided, but for the best results we recommend:

- 200 lbs. wheat bran.
- 200 lbs. wheat middlings.
- 200 lbs. corn meal dairy chops.
- 200 lbs. rolled or ground oats.
- 150 lbs. dry beef scraps.
- 75 lbs. alfalfa meal.
- 50 lbs. gluten meal.
- 25 lbs. of Old Process Oil Meal.
- 8 lbs. fine table salt, no lumps.
- 25 lbs. fine granulated charcoal

You can easily reduce or eliminate the seventy-five pounds of alfalfa meal, providing you are furnishing the fowls with an ample supply of succulent green feed at least once each day. Not more than one inch square of succulent green feed per day should be given them during this period of feeding. About twice each week we would suggest that you adopt measures which will whet their appetite and increase their consumption of moistened mash. The best way to do this is to procure a few fresh green bones from your market and boil them thoroughly four or five hours, seasoning with salt to taste, about the same as if you were preparing a soup for your own table use. Dilute this with four parts of hot water and use this mixture for moistening a mash feed. Do this, even though you are providing milk to drink, as in this instance the mash moistened with bone soup is intended to develop appetite. It is not advisable to procure such a large quantity of green bones that you will have any great supply of the bone soup left over. A fresh supply each feeding day is more desirable.

If you live on a sea shore or in a locality where it is difficult to obtain beef scraps, use fish meal, but under no circumstances

substitute cotton seed meal for the Old Process Oil Meal. This is sometimes done in Southern states where cotton seed meal is more readily available, but the results are not as satisfactory.

During the moulting period of an adult fowl, two or three things must be guarded against; the houses must be perfectly clean; the birds desirable for exhibition purposes must be selected and put into quarters by themselves where they will have a sufficient amount of room and fresh air; their bodies must be absolutely free from lice. It will pay to dust every section on each fowl, including main wing and main tail feathers, with sodium flouride powder, or annoint the fowls with a good body lice ointment.

Poultrymen must guard moulting hens and cock birds from dampness and draft. It is during the moulting period that they are in the most weakened condition, and they will contract colds and diseases readily.

If you are moulting hens or cock birds for an exceptionally early show or fall fair, it often pays to carry any such birds far away from their houses and quarters and teach them to roost in trees during the moulting period. At this season the weather is usually dry and hot. To moult and reproduce feathers of the proper color, they must have fresh air, and air that is as cool as possible. This method is especially helpful in the case of Rhode Island Red hens and other highly colored birds.

The main reason that hens fail to moult in hot weather arises from the fact that they have too much fat on their bodies. This is reasonable, because they do not need to utilize any feed stuff consumed for keeping their bodies warm. As fall and cooler weather approach, if we continue feeding and caring for the hens in the usual manner and continue to supply the same feed mixtures, the fowls will utilize a greater portion of their feed in supplying meat for the maintenance of their bodies. This causes the hens to become thin in flesh, resulting in the old feathers gradually drying out and dropping off and new ones taking their place.

A hen can stand the production of excessive fat and be able to produce more eggs with less strain than she experiences in producing feathers. There is a good reason for this. Feathers require more protein than do eggs. This is also the main reason why it is so hard to produce eggs and feathers at the same time.

Should your hens be in a laying condition while growing new feathers, the latter will be lacking in quality. The feather itself will be narrow and slim. In highly colored birds, it is difficult to grow the proper shades of color if the hen is in a laying condition when the feathers are produced. It should be observed that the moulting season is marked by a lack of appetite. Ordinarily this should not be discouraged by the feeder, as the hen is far from a perpetual machine when it comes to egg production, but in the case of moulting a hen for exhibition purposes, the loss of appetite, once they actually start moulting, should be discouraged as far as possible. Once the feathers are loosened from the bird's body and a certain portion of them begin to fall out, and new

feathers start growing in their place, the appetite of both males and females will return.

Another very good and quite simple mash formula to feed for a period of three to four weeks following the starvation period is as follows:

64 lbs. of corn meal.  
15 lbs. middlings or wheat shorts.  
21 lbs. beef meal.  
3 lbs. oil meal.  
9 lbs. gluten, and  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. fine table salt.

The proportions in which to feed this are five parts of scratch grain to twelve parts of ground feed by weight, feeding the scratch grain in the litter and the mash feed in dry mash hoppers and in moistened form. This formula may be considered the connecting link between the starving ration and the one which would be used to add additional flesh. At the same time, this formula is excellent for feather building material, and should only be applied for a period of about three to four weeks, after which we prefer reverting back to the previous formula for dry mash.

## FEEDING

### Chapter 8

#### Feeding to Increase Weight and Obtain Lustre of Plumage

In feeding fowls or young stock intended for exhibition purposes, it is of the utmost importance to bring them to the show room in the "pink" of condition. Skillful feeding is one of the prime essentials towards this end. One of the secrets of carrying off the coveted prizes lies in having the birds up to weight. In order to get them up to weight, especially for the earlier shows, it often requires extra feeding. To keep the appetites of the birds "keen" while feeding them heavily is, indeed, a problem. A variety of feed, together with enough exercise to keep them in a healthy condition, is necessary. Birds of low weight can be brought up rapidly by feeding a mash composed of ground wheat, ground corn, and ground oats mixed with a supply of fresh meat scraps or other protein feed. This combined mixture must be thoroughly ground.

It is always advisable to mix a moistened mash and supply two feedings a day, moistening same with milk, either sweet or sour. This renders the mixture more palatable and at the same time adds to its food value. A great deal of the high lustre of plumage can be traced directly to milk feeding and an abundance of meat scraps, with about five pounds of O. P. Oil Meal added to each 100 pounds of the dry mash. In the case of supplying meat scraps, watch carefully that diarrhea does not result. In case this should result, reduce the meat scraps and add two to four per cent of powdered charcoal.

In the case of young birds, it would be advisable to add five per cent of bone meal to the above ingredients. For a definite



mash mixture, to increase the weight of both young birds and old birds, I would recommend the following:

- 50 lbs. whole ground wheat.
- 100 lbs. corn meal or dairy chops.
- 50 lbs. ground oats.
- 40 lbs. commercial beef scraps.
- 12 lbs. bone meal.
- 2 lbs. fine table salt.
- 6 lbs. powdered charcoal.

Needless to say, good hard grit, as well as oyster shell, should be kept available and handy for them at all times.

Trap-nest records show that, under ordinary circumstances and feeding, hens require from 70 to 90 days in which to complete the moult. During the first third of this period, when merely shedding old feathers, I find that hens which are bred and physically built to lay will continue producing eggs, stopping only when their feed is required to supply materials out of which to fashion the growing feathers.

The average fowl, male or female, if properly cared for and fed, should not require a longer period than from forty-five to sixty days in which to complete the moult. The older and weaker the fowl in vitality, the longer will be the period required to complete the moult. Generally speaking, the fowl that drops a few feathers at a time and replaces them one by one, is not as good a fowl from a physical standpoint; neither is she likely to be as good a layer as the fowl whose feathers all seem to drop out at once, leaving her bare for a time. Growing the feathers in the latter way is an immense drain on any fowl's vitality. It has also been found that hens whose feathers all drop out at once are more likely to produce a new cloak of plumage, which is likely to be more level in color than is probable in cases where fowls moult gradually.

## FEEDING TO EFFECT COLOR OF PLUMAGE

Many prominent breeders and authorities differ in their opinions as to the effects of different grains on the color of plumage, and especially is this difference of opinion noticeable in regard to creaminess in varieties having white plumage.

It has been our experience that any system of feeding or any particular grain which has the effect of placing an unusual amount of fat on the bird in a short space of time will produce a "fatty" oil, which makes the new-grown feather have a creamy appearance. This stays with the bird, unless we so feed as to cause the bird to go through a hardening or drying out process, during which period this creamy plumage will become white.

It has been found by previous and long experience with white birds that they must not be permitted an abundance of green feed, such as clover, alfalfa, blue grass and the like. The whitest birds are those kept entirely off of range, more or less on barren ground or in their houses, during the period in which they are growing

their final coat of new feathers as youngsters, or during the moulting period if they are adult fowls.

Scientists, however, have been able to show, beyond the question of a doubt, that to some extent yellow corn will more readily cause white plumage to become creamy; and, vice versa, it will have the effect of leveling up the color of Buff or Red birds to a greater extent than will white corn, wheat, oats, or buckwheat.

Whole wheat and whole buckwheat are two excellent feeds for fowls having white plumage. Whole or ground buckwheat is exceedingly whitening in its nature and is used in England to whiten the skin and flesh of milk-fed chickens. There is no feed or mixture of feed that will give a whiter plumage than mash made of ground buckwheat, ground oats, and a low grade of flour, mixed properly with thick, sour, skimmed milk or butter-milk. This feed is known not only to whiten the flesh of birds, but to whiten the plumage as well.

Exhibition fowls should receive daily one or more feeds of whole grain, as too great an amount of mash feed is quite apt to lessen their vigor and effect their activity. It is always desirable to prevent fowls from becoming sluggish. Their appearance in a show hall is fifty per cent improved when they appear full of life and very active, though thoroughly tame and well trained.

Those who doubt that a fowl with a Buff or Red plumage can be color fed should go into the question fully with a proficient canary breeder, one who feeds his little birds for color. Tasteless pepper given in capsule or pill form morning and evening, immediately after meals, is commonly used to level up the color of Buff fowls; although, as in meat feeding, one must watch development carefully, so as not to get the coloring too deep. It is best to put the tasteless pepper up in small two-grain capsules and adjust the number of capsules given the fowl by the appearance of the color of the new grown feathers. Glance at a number of color-fed canaries, in which a number of novices are exhibiting, and you will see various shades of color. One exhibitor overdoes it, while another falls short.

Our experience has been that yellow maize or corn not only affects, to some extent, the color of the plumage, but it will positively tint white ear-lobes. Hemp seed will strengthen the ground color in plumage of highly colored fowls, such as Dark Brahmas, Silver Wyandottes, and Rhode Island Reds.

The color of the plumage can be made or marred during the moult. It is a very intricate question, and one which it will pay you well to study sincerely and to experiment on some fowls of lesser value, always watching results carefully. The best of health, the best of sanitary water, the best of fresh air, milk, feed and care is absolutely essential if we expect to obtain on adult fowls a new coat of plumage having a color anywhere near that to be found on the same fowl as a cockerel or pullet. The same can be said in developing youngsters. Chicks can be ever so well bred, but without proper care and feed they will be deficient in both color and shape when fully matured.

To obtain an even, desirable color in the new cloak of plumage, a quick moult is essential. Equal shading and treatment must be provided to avoid "patchy" colored feathers. It is well to keep white birds in a medium dark room, where bright light and especially sunshine, does not touch them. The same might be said of dark colored birds. It is not difficult in the moulting of old fowls to know just when to practice color feeding, for it is during that period when feathers are starting to grow that color feeding must be practiced. In the case of young birds, however, it requires careful sorting up and culling according to their development. Birds of the same age will not always start producing their final cloak of adult plumage at the same time. This necessitates more or less handling and observation.

It has been found that in feeding either young or old stock of varieties other than white fowls, the milk solution used for moistening the mash should consist of five per cent of pure melted lard. This will greatly aid in feather coloring, as it will materially assist the condition of the fowl and the production of the feathers.

For the same reasons that green feed and the like be kept away from white plumaged fowls, green feed, yellow and red corn should be supplied to dark plumaged birds. In the case of black, red, and dark colored or parti-colored varieties, the fowls should be supplied with a small amount of saturated carbonate of iron, about one tablespoonful to each quart of drinking water. This will decidedly help to deepen or level up the body color of the feathers.

Care should be taken in the case of moulting fowls, or youngsters growing new feathers, not to touch or handle them any more than is absolutely necessary. This should be done only at night, if possible. If in handling the bird any of the new feathers are bruised, causing blood to flow, the coloring will be affected. This is most noticeable in black and red fowls. Especially are the tips and other portions of the main wing feathers easily affected by slight bruises.

Many do not know that during the moulting period fowls always shed the scales from their legs and toes. It is often advisable to give them a little help in moulting these scales. Wrapping the legs with half-inch strips of muslin, after first rubbing vaseline well into the legs, is an aid toward better yellow leg color and helps toward moulting the scales and growing well formed new ones.

Some of the leading breeders of America and most all keen fanciers make full use of what is known as "cockerel" boxes or very small colony coops, as shown in Figure 8, for moulters and nearly matured youngsters.

This is a practice that pays a good dividend. Many breeders take great pains in breeding, rearing and washing their fowls for exhibition, but it is surprising how neglected they are when it comes to proper care of the legs, toes, and of the individual bird during the final feather growing period. Cock birds and cockerels should always be placed in these small houses or coops entirely

by themselves, with the possible exception of the occasional companionship of one or more old hens of other than exhibition qualities. Females, both pullets and hens, can be placed in these small colony coops. Two to six in number do very well together. Greater improvement of form and plumage condition will always be obtained when fowls can be housed singly or in small groups.

The color of the legs must be observed just as much as the color of plumage. Birds that are out on grass range usually have well colored legs, while birds kept in barren pens for any considerable length of time have leg color which appears faded out. This can be overcome, in most cases, by oiling and wrapping as we have already described, or by wiping daily with a wet cloth while moulting or in training for exhibition.

In the color feeding of black birds, it is interesting to review the experience of one of our oldest fanciers, a man who, in his time, was known as a very, very successful breeder of Black Minorcas. In reviewing some of his experiences and observations as to the effect of feeding for black color, he has this to say: "Several years ago, I had a late hatched Single Comb Black Minorca Cockerel that had the promise of making an extra fine bird. He was too late and immature for use that season. I put him out on a farm to hold over for a cock bird. The following fall, during his moult, this bird was fed wholly on yellow corn, and when I came to look him over after moulting, I found much to my surprise, that he was off in color, showing purple barring to quite an extent. Otherwise, he was a grand bird. I decided to hold him over another year. Late in the following summer, before he started his moult, I brought him in and placed him by himself in a roomy coop with a good grass run attached. All through his moult I fed him mostly wheat, with now and then a feeding of buckwheat or oats. The result was that his color had an almost perfect, rich, greenish sheen, free from any barring or purple. He won the blue that season at one of our leading shows in fast company."

It is now generally conceded that yellow corn, or any excessive heating feed, will supply coloring matter that will improve the color in plumage where it does not already contain, in its natural state, all the coloring matter that it will stand. In the latter case, it supplies an excess of color which will produce purple or brown barring on all black birds, and also shows the same effect on Barred Plymouth Rocks. It is a recognized fact that purple and brown barring in black birds, on Cornish fowls and the like, is the result of an excess of color and can, at least, be partially overcome by reducing the volume of heating and fattening feed.

## TRAINING AND FITTING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION

### Chapter 9

Fitting fowls for the show room is one of those jobs in which brains and experience count for much. It requires a master of details. No fitter can afford to overlook a single point; least of all can he afford to exhibit his string insufficiently prepared when

he knows that some of his competitors, if not all, will present their fowls in their complete show attire which has won victory for them against great odds on many a hard fought field, as it were.

Fitting a fowl or animal for hot competition is an art which must be learned from the ground up. It takes a hard lesson in the school of experience to smooth this path to fame. Much time will be saved in learning the first principles, or the underlying knowledge of how to go about this work.

To those breeding Standard-bred poultry, fitting and conditioning fowls for exhibition is a promising and profitable field. English and Scotch show men seem to possess the particular faculty for securing and holding conditions. It matters not whether it be in horses, cattle, sheep or fowls, the thorough Britisher and the canny Scotch seem to know the why, the how and the wherefore of this art. Candidly, I believe the whole secret lies in their con-



Fig. 9.

**Poultry exhibitors at the Panama-Pacific World's Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915, washing their fowls in a specially constructed washing room in the very center of "The World's Fair" grounds. A member of the faculty of this School will be seen at the tub with Mrs. Harnley of Illinois washing a White Orpington which two days later headed first prize pen.**

stantly working with and everlastingly thinking of the fowls in their pens. If their fowls lack reach, their feed is placed in a tin cup fastened high on the wall so as to make them stretch. If the much feathered Cochin fails to grow an abundance of soft, long plumage, sugary water is mixed in with the soft feed, and if the Bantam chicks grow too fast, rice forms a large portion of their grain diet.

Condition in its highest state is a curious thing. It is a mixture of natural and hand polish. Of course, the fitter must have a good quality of fowl to begin with or the finish can never be put on. It is the grain of the birch that takes the beautiful polish we all prize so highly and for which we pay so much money, but

it is quite a trick to put it in the shape in which we like it. There are lots of gnarly limbs on birch trees that never will take the right sort of polish, just as there are lots of fowls and animals that never attain the right condition, try as the fitter may. If we could always depend on obtaining for the single or pen classes, or both, fowls that are exactly the same in ancestry, vitality, age and disposition and whose confirmation and covering are identical, then this matter of fitting would be one of "rule of thumb." But as there are no two cockerels, pullets, cocks or hens precisely alike, even in minor characteristics, each must be handled as a separate unit, and in a separate fashion. Always, there is something heretofore unknown to be considered; some new problem to be solved, and each must be handled by itself. There are some which for want of a better name, we shall call "natural born growers and fitters."

It is a well known fact that Mr. Arthur Duston, a prominent White Wyandotte breeder in the East, very frequently spends his spare time fitting birds owned by other breeders and intended for Eastern shows. We will always have poultry shows. There will always be breeders and growers who will be willing to pay liberally for the services of an expert, and most expert conditioners are what we would call "natural born growers and fitters." There are always a limited few who excel others in some degree in anything to which they turn their hands. The bulk of us should not become discouraged because it has become the fashion to say this, and we should remember the truthful saying of the Irishman, "To succeed, it requires one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration." The way to reach the top is to keep trying. Never give up. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

A good fitter never overlooks what is underneath. An exhibition bird whose legs and feet are not properly prepared always reminds me of a man in a full dress suit and rubber boots. The best strings of birds shown at the prominent shows which I attended last winter showed numerous specimens standing on well-fitted legs.

If I were asked to pick out the best all around conditioned strings in any show room I believe the selection might almost be made by walking along the aisles noticing only what was below the hocks.

The time to begin working on the legs and feet of the show bird is months before the show. When the time comes for the final touches, we have found a hammock especially handy as a means for holding the fowl. This method is illustrated in Figure 25. Compared with the old fashioned method of holding the bird on the knee or under the arms, it is a much easier and more practical way for the fitter, allowing as it does the free use of both hands.

If we find any cocks or hens that have not entirely removed the old scales and the scales appear loose, then the thumb nail is pressed firmly against the side of a scale and same removed. This should be continued on down over the legs and toes, care always

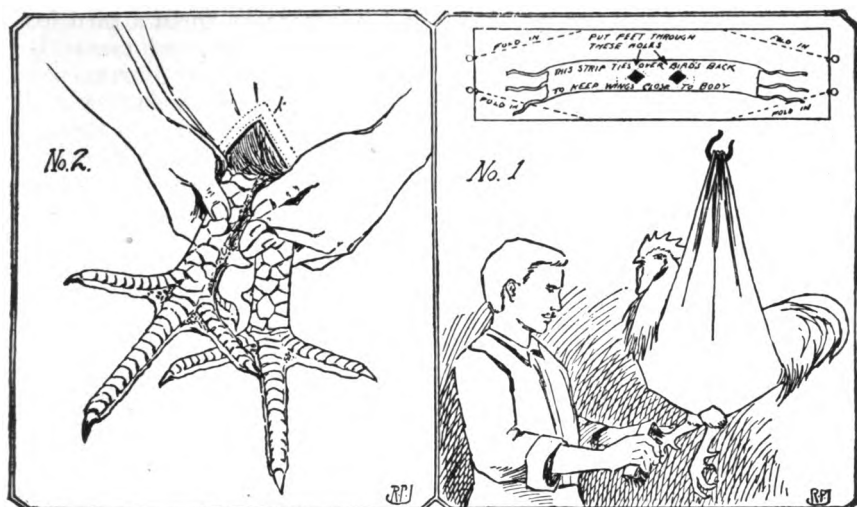


Fig. 25.

Fig. 25 shows a hammock to hold a bird while it is being prepared for exhibition, especially while its legs, feet and toes are being worked upon. Number one of the above group shows an easy and convenient way to hold a bird while washing on its feet, legs, head or tail. In the upper part of this picture is a detailed drawing showing how this hammock is made. By slipping the feet and legs of the bird between the two square holes toward which the arrows are pointing, then bringing the ends of the hammock outside of the wing shoulders and tying them firmly and securely over the back of the fowl, it holds it firm and prevents it from flopping. The second sack or basket is then made in such a manner that it has ends long enough to fasten to a hook from which the bird hangs. The hammock should be made of heavy muslin. Its size varies according to the weight and bulk of the bird used to fit it. Rings are fastened to it, as shown in the upper drawing in Number 1. After the bird has been placed in the hammock the operation reminds one of putting overalls on a rooster. The rings are gathered together and strung on a hook attached to a rope hung from the ceiling of a conditioning house. Number two in the above group shows the method of removing or moulting old scales with the thumb nails, and thoroughly washing the feet and toes with a scrub brush.

being taken not to remove or injure the under scale. If you remove the new under scale, bleeding will follow, and the leg will be blacked by an unsightly dark or bruised scale. If it is impossible to remove the outer scale, as is sometimes the case, polishing with powdered pumice stone will make a rough leg thoroughly smooth and presentable. A "creamy" paste made by mixing sweet oil and powdered pumice can be rubbed on the scales after the manner in which a boot black polishes shoes. This method is shown in the figure. If a strip of cloth, which is used in polishing rough scales that could not be removed, is dampened with sweet oil before being used, it will be found to retain the paste much better.

As we mentioned in the previous chapter, moisture is quite indispensable in maintaining the color of the legs. A very unique method of preserving leg color is practiced by some breeders. They place a good sized granite dish filled with rain water to the depth of about three inches on the outside, next to the door, of each breeding pen. This pan is so placed that every time a fowl leaves the house it is compelled to step into the water. In this way, the feet and legs are moistened several times a day.

If one is so unfortunate as to find it necessary to fit a bird for exhibition which has been neglected and allowed to become scaly legged, Oil of Caraway will be found one of the best cures. An ointment can be made by mixing one part of Oil of Caraway and five parts of White Vaseline. This should be rubbed into the affected parts after they have been thoroughly washed and dried. This should be done until the disease disappears. Oil of Caraway causes very little irritation and is very penetrating. When a fowl has scaly legs, the scales on the feet and legs are raised by a crusty substance. It usually appears near the joint, between the toes and the feet. It is caused by a mite that bores under the scales of the legs and burrows deep into the tissues. Foul roosting quarters, dry and barren quarters, fowls ranging on alkali soil, and ash filled yards favor its spread among a flock.

After having picked out the most promising specimens for exhibition, allowing for ample substitutes in the event some birds do not fit up as one desires, and after being assured that the proper treatment of legs and toes has been administered, we are now ready to begin training the bird.

If it is possible to use small fitting houses for heavier weight breeds, such as American and Asiatic fowls, a great portion of a fitting period, only caging the fowls a small portion of the time and alternating them back and forth from house to cage, this method is much preferred; but in the lighter weight breeds, such as Leghorns, Polish, Anconas, and the like, it is better to place them in exhibition coops and visit them daily—the more often the better. At visiting times, they should be treated in a very gentle manner. They should become accustomed to being moved around in the pen with the point of a stick, as the judge will do this to determine their carriage or symmetry.

In the show room, the judge must pass upon the birds just as he finds them in the cage. You cannot take into consideration the fact that while in your yard at home your bird carried his tail lower; that his comb was straight; or that he stood in a more natural position, showing a better shaped back, breast, neck, etc. The official judges the bird just as he finds it, and he has very little time to try to make any bird pose.

If the qualities of two birds are very near equal, as far as points are concerned, a judge is more likely to give the first place to the bird that behaves himself better, has a better disposition, and, in fact, is a better trained specimen.

It is never advisable to cage two or more birds together, in training them for exhibition. There is danger of the birds fighting, and destroying each others plumage or bruising their legs, and especially is there danger of bruising and discoloring their ear-lobes, face and comb.

What is known as short shavings or sawdust chips, which appears to be a mixture of shavings and sawdust chips, is the best material to use for bedding in coops used for training birds or in shipping them to the show room. While training birds in exhibition coops, they will not need the same diet as when on the range



or in the conditioning yards or moulting pens. They should, for the most part, be given hard dry grain supplied to them in a can or vessel attached to the front of their coops. No changes in feeding should be made suddenly, however. This should be made gradually. They should be supplied with a small amount of hard grit every third day while confined to exhibition coops. The usual amount, one square inch, of succulent green feed should be supplied them daily. In placing fowls in training coops, they should be carefully weighed and records made of same. They should then be fed to meet the requirements of flesh, feathers and head point development.

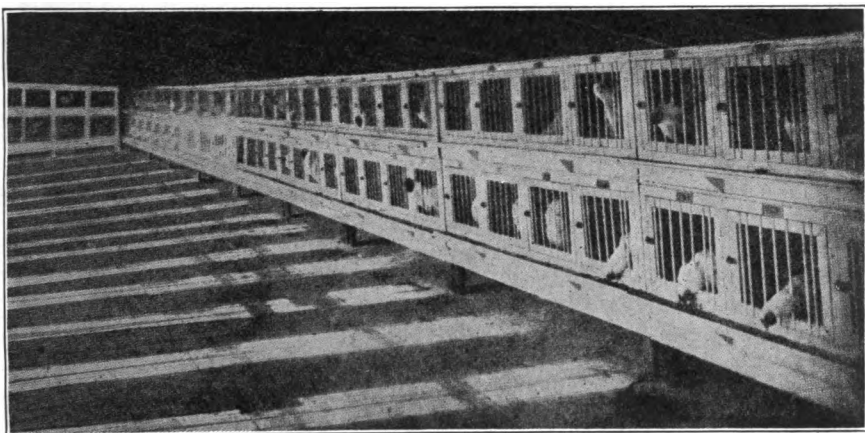


Fig. 10

Fig. 10 shows an interior view of a fitting and conditioning room on the farm of Charles Keeler, the noted White Wyandotte breeder of Winomack, Indiana. The writer helped design and construct this fitting and conditioning house. The long room contains a double deck row of exhibition coops permanently built in. The feeding trough or table directly beneath the slatted openings is so constructed that it can be removed from each section. Each section contains four coops. This leaves a four-inch space immediately underneath the door through which the floor of the coop can be thoroughly cleaned without removing the birds from the cage. All feed and water is furnished from the feeding table. After this picture was taken small yards three by five feet were built on the floor directly in front of these cages, leaving only a four-foot aisle between the cages and the small yards. The small yards have wood partitions, two feet high, to prevent females from fighting. A dropping board six inches off the floor, together with detachable roost poles, was so built as to permit folding them up against the partition, thus leaving the entire floor space free. Four to six females were kept in each yard, and it was in these small yards that Mr. Keeler successfully conditioned his females while the male birds were kept in the exhibition coops. Immediately adjoining is the main drying room in this conditioning house. Stairs lead down from that room to the wash room on the floor below, and adjoining the wash room is the first room containing exhibition coops in which the candidates for washing are placed. They are taken from the latter room into the wash room and thoroughly washed, then taken up stairs and are placed in the drying room. When they have the appearance of being fully dry they are removed from the drying coop and placed in the cages illustrated above.

In handling or training your birds, each time you visit their cages it is well to place your hand in the coop quietly and with no show of nervousness. Gently put your hand towards their head and rub your finger between the wattles and under the beak.

If you will do this, your birds will become quite tame. After a few days, it is a good idea to stroke the back and tail occasionally by gently rubbing your hand over their feathers.

If the bird is inclined to carry its tail a little too high work with the fowl until you gradually lower the tail. You can often get it to pose in the correct position every time a judge or a stranger attempts to handle it, or touch it with a judging stick. It will require patience and days of careful handling, but a blue ribbon in a large show and the advertising of same justifies these efforts.

A small round stick about 18 inches or two feet in length is a very good thing to use in training your bird. Use this often, in place of the hand, as no doubt the judge will use something similar in judging the bird for shape and symmetry. Gentle handling and continual posing will finally result in birds assuming the desired positions whenever the judge's stick is pointed through the wires of the training or exhibition coops.

When first placed in the training coops, especially if the birds appear to be wild, it is a good idea to allow them to fast just a little, so that they will welcome you when you go to feed them.

It is all right to admit visitors to your training quarters, but it is not advisable, in preparing birds for exhibition, to allow visitors to remove them from the coops and handle the plumage, and by no means during the first period of training the birds should any outsider handle them. Too often they are unacquainted with the peculiarities of that particular bird, and, furthermore, they may not be efficient in taking a bird from the show coop in the proper manner. We have known many promising show birds to become ruined for a show by the wing or tail plumage becoming broken, the result of just such a practice. Visitors walking to and fro in front of their cages, however, is a good thing, as it helps to accustom fowls to strange faces and voices.

If you have any pampering to do, such as feeding them delicate bits, etc., do this while training the fowls at your own farm or home, and not after you have the bird in the show.

Some fowls, which are otherwise exceptional in quality, may stand in a slightly unbalanced position, which gives their bodies the appearance of tilting forward. In such cases, it is well to darken the lower three-fourths of the training cages and place all feed and drinking water at the edge of the open space, which will be high up towards the top of the coop. This trains the bird to stand in a more erect position, as he must do so in order to either see out, eat or drink. On the other hand, we find birds inclined to rear high in standing, almost straight up like an Indian Runner Duck, thus making them entirely out of balance. Such birds should have the upper three-fourths of the coop front darkened and all feed and water placed at a low point.

Birds that are already well balanced should have the upper first quarter and the lower quarter of their coops darkened, thus causing the bird to stand at its natural balance or pose while in the training coops.

After all, it is an easy matter to teach your birds to pose, eat from your hands, and act with a high degree of intelligence when either you or the judge approaches the front of their cage. This cannot be done within a day or two. It will require weeks of patience, gentle handling and training before the bird is properly fitted and in perfect show condition.

No bird should be placed in the training coops and left there for too long a period, just prior to a show. They are too apt to grow stale. They should be given a little exercise at least every third day. Though it largely depends upon the fowls and the way they were bred and have been raised, the usual period for training is not over ten days. Even then about twenty to twenty-five per cent of that time should be consumed in scratching around in larger quarters, on a floor covered with clean litter.

Show room form or condition is the form exhibited by fowls placed in the coop for exhibition. In some cases, this form is natural, but in most cases it is made or trained. The method of obtaining the form is never considered by the judge. The fowls are judged by the actual form in which they pose, and their behavior during the time they are being judged.

When a fowl appears at ease in an exhibition coop at a poultry show and does not attempt to interfere with or attract the attention of other fowls, it has good coop manners. A very good way to insure coop manners is to teach birds intended for exhibition to be accustomed to the presence of other fowls. This, of course, is not easy, because, as we have stated before, it is better not to have two birds in a cage together, with this one exception, i. e., in the event you are going to make an exhibit of a display pen, exhibition or breeding pen, four to six females should be trained together, so that the four most likely specimens, those that match and fit the best, can be entered at the exhibit without danger of their quarreling and fighting with one another.

Females being fitted for exhibition should often have a small and rather young male placed in their coops for ten or fifteen minutes each day. By this method, they will not appear to a disadvantage when placed in range with male birds at the show.

No fitter can ever afford to become angry or in any way lose his good disposition while handling or fitting a bird regardless of what it may do.

In order that a fowl may show to the best advantage it must be absolutely fearless. Fowls should never be frightened and they should gradually become accustomed to as many people and strange things as possible, such as children, dogs, and various other objects that may be in the average show room. Training coops should be placed where there is plenty of light and where the trainer has to pass often. This will accustom the fowls to having people pass.

Try and teach your fowls to pose, but never attempt to force a fowl to pose in any particular position. Instead offer it short bits of food. When a fowl has hopes of receiving food, it will pose in an alert position that it is impossible to obtain in any other way. Every time the fitter approaches a coop he should give the fowl a

morsel to eat. Fowls will soon look for you and will assume the pose and look for the food they expect.

Habits formed by your fowls during the training period will cling to them during the show; therefore, to get a fowl to pose attractively, remember it must be taught to expect attention whenever any person approaches the coop. To impress this idea on the mind of the fowl, a fitter should never approach the coop without paying some attention to the bird within. If this is done, and if it is fed occasionally from the hand, it will be noticeable that during an exhibition that fowl will pose for any person, in the hope of receiving a morsel of food. If a fowl ordinarily gives its best appearance by standing in a position facing the coop, it is then best, at times when it is fed from the fingers, to hold the hand exactly in front of the coop at about the proper height in order to make the bird appear at its best. If the bird appears better from a side or profile view, then your object should be to stand it sideways, and the feed should be held to one side. If all are trained this way, they will always come to the front of the coop when a person approaches and will never cringe or cower in the back part of their cages.

A fowl that will shrink its feathers in and cower away from the judge as though afraid cannot be expected to win if competition is the least bit keen.

We have known some very successful trainers to hold a bit of choice feed between their lips instead of in their fingers and allow the fowl to pick it out. A fowl so trained will be alert when a judge puts his head near the coop to get a close view of it.

In handling your fowls during the fitting and training period, it is well to stroke their plumage towards the lay of the feathers in all such varieties that have tight plumage, such as Leghorns, Anconas, Minorcas and the like, but the plumage of loose feathered or fluffy fowls, such as the Orpington, Wyandotte, and the like, should be frequently pulled upward or backward from the rear, drawing them gently up against the lay of the feathers for the full length of the body. This aids to some degree in bringing out the shape desired, but care must be exercised not to bruise any growing feathers.

Old plumage which is ripe and brittle will not stand more than one washing, as a rule. However, some breeders wash old fowls twice to assist the moult. In the case of young white birds, or old fowls that have moulted the old plumage and grown a full cloak of new, it is advisable to wash them thoroughly three times prior to an exhibition. Ten days to two weeks should elapse between these washings. This, in itself, is a great aid in training and taming birds.

The toilet of one's fowls is a most important factor. In conditioning varieties having a color of plumage which should not be washed, it is well to spend a few minutes each day while the birds are being trained in helping them prepare their toilet, improving the luster and cleanliness of their plumage. Use a soft cloth. Beginning at the base of the comb rub down with an easy motion, covering every portion of the bird. At the end of a week or ten

days, the bird will have a beautiful luster. When the bird is not in its training coop, it should be in a small house, with a clean floor of from six to ten inches of good, clean bedding.

Silver Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks and golden buff colored birds will show the effect of dirt on their plumage in such a way that it will be almost as noticeable as in the case of white birds, and, for that reason, breeders must be especially careful to thoroughly cleanse their plumage before exhibiting. In some cases, it is even advisable to thoroughly wash parti-colored birds five or six weeks before an exhibition. Hand rub them occasionally, and do this frequently during the last week or ten days prior to the show.

## WASHING WHITE FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION

### Chapter 10

The highest art in the process of properly fitting and conditioning birds for exhibition is in washing them. Beyond any question, more promising birds are ruined for exhibition in keen competition by inexperienced people, improper washing and drying of plumage, than from any other cause. It can also be said that more fowls of a lesser degree of quality are improved to the point where a winning in keen competition is possible through a thoroughly efficient washing, drying and grooming by the hand of an artist, than from any other cause.



Fig. 11

Fig. 11—This shows the first stage of washing a fowl where one is unable to have an assistant to help in the work. The washing of a bird, to prepare it properly, can well be divided into four stages. The picture above illustrates the first stage which consists of plunging the bird into water, thoroughly wetting its entire plumage.

Washing fowls for exhibition is indeed of the utmost importance, and it also means much real work, but if we will remember that the crowning glory and the fruits of our years of labor are made known through the show room, we can stand the hard labor.

It is in the show room that we view our labors of the past seasons. It is there that our successes and failures manifest themselves; it is there that we turn our thoughts to the days to come and begin to lay plans for the future advertising and selling of our products.

The true fancier and breeder gains this advantage by a victory in the show room. He knows that this victory is noted by many of next year's prospective buyers, not only at home, but also abroad. Thus, it behooves him to look to his laurels, as well as to his plans for next year's work. With these thoughts in mind it will pay anyone to disregard the labor, inconveniences and small added expenses which are necessary to properly prepare, educate, wash and dry our fowls. After all, washing fowls is not such a difficult performance, once we learn the proper knack.

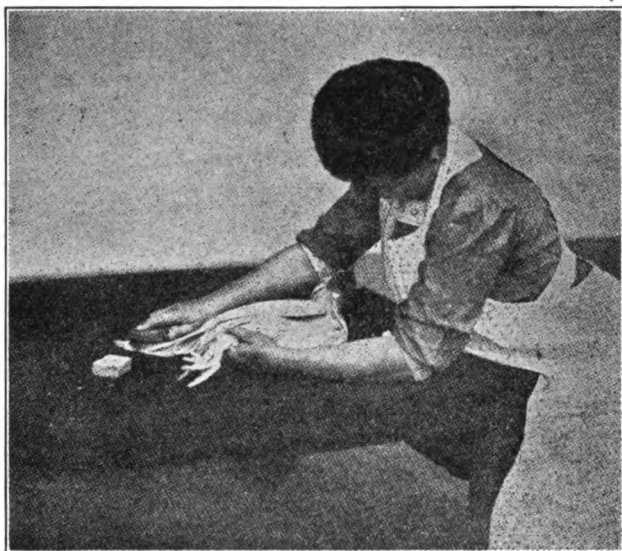
Breeders who have been exhibiting birds for a number of years, and who produce a considerable number of choice specimens annually, preparing them for their own exhibiting or for the use of customers, usually have a specially built washing room and quarters for properly drying and grooming the birds.

The average breeder depends much on a clean, well ventilated outbuilding or upon a clean sanitary basement, or, in many cases, upon his good wife's kitchen. In any event, everything should be ready for completing the job before one starts.

It is a mistake to close a room too tightly in order to keep it sufficiently warm. Ample ventilation is essential to proper drying; also, moisture provided in some manner close to the drying coops is necessary, or the fowls will not fluff out properly, neither will their plumage show the desired finish or lustre.

We know of one of the most successful breeders and fitters in America, who uses two rooms, one for washing and the other for drying. The partition between the two rooms has a large hole cut in it like a double doorway. The stove for heating the water is placed in this opening. On top of the stove is a large open iron kettle, in which he keeps water boiling continuously. Naturally, the steam from it filters into the drying room. Birds which dry out too rapidly, as a result of dry, harsh, hot air, in which there is no moisture, never look as good as those which dry slowly, and in an air moistened warm room.

After selecting a proper room or pair of rooms for washing and drying the birds, all unnecessary furniture should be removed. A good fire should be started in both the washing and drying rooms for properly heating the water to be used and for drying the birds. Rain water, if clean, is much preferred to hard water. If it is necessary to use hard water, it should be softened by the use of one heaping teacupful of Mule Team Borax to each boilerful of water.



**Fig. 12.**

The above illustration shows the second stage described in our text matter, that of using the soft brush with which to scrub the feathers. After the plumage has been thoroughly wet, soaped and scrubbed by hand and the most of the dirt washed out, then the bird should be soaped again and gently scrubbed with the brush.

In properly washing birds, the operator needs a good assistant and none better can be found than a good, patient woman. You should next prepare the room to be used for drying, which must be thoroughly clean. Sprinkle the drying coop floors with two inches of sawdust. This kind of litter absorbs the droppings better than any other kind. It is not so likely to stain the breast and lower fluff plumage of the fowl. Coops should be arranged quite close to the source of heat, but provision must be made for plenty of space to permit moving them back from the heat, a few inches at a time, after the fowls start drying. If it is possible to have steaming water on top of the source of heat for drying, or to provide any other means which will insure more or less steam in the drying room be sure to do so.

It is especially necessary that there be moisture in the drying room by the time the fowls are three-fourths dry. Prepare cages, in cool quarters, for the fowls prior to their being washed. Have the fowls that are to be washed in these cages as close as possible to the washing room, so that no time will be lost. They should be so arranged that it will be unnecessary for the washer or his assistant to leave the warm air of the washing or drying room and expose themselves to a cooler temperature in going after a bird that is to be washed. If we were building a fitting and conditioning room to be used for washing, we would certainly arrange a room for each division of work. First of all, the room for fitting

and training should be well ventilated and well lighted. The next room should be the drying room, and the size of this would depend upon the probable number of birds that are likely to be washed in any one day. We also prefer a separate wash room.

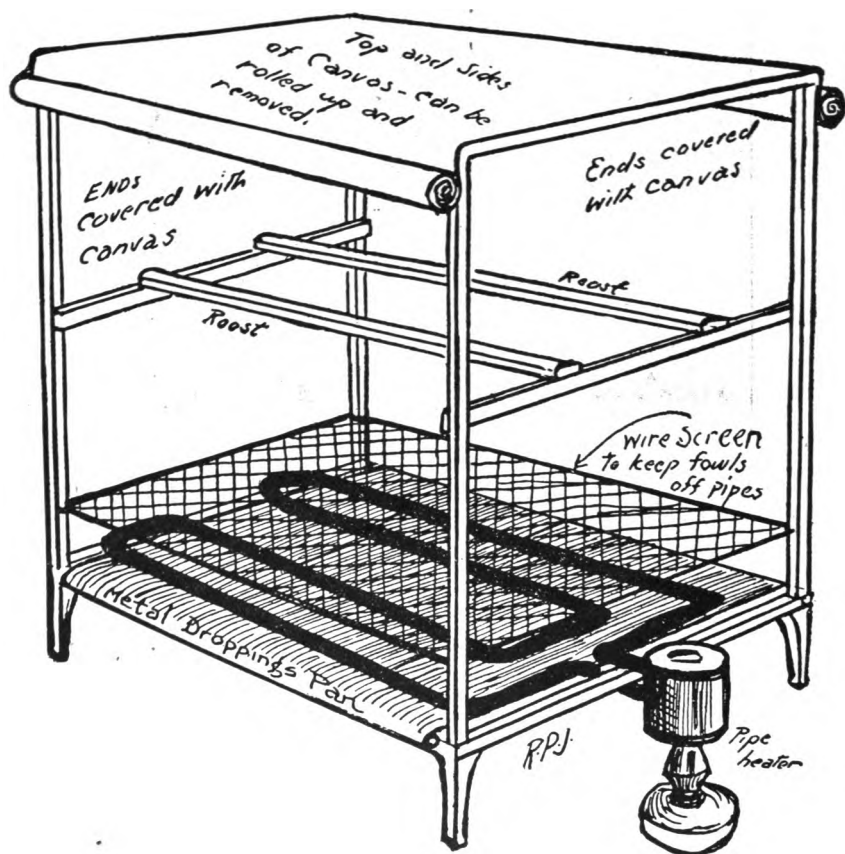


Fig. 26.

Through the courtesy of the Reliable Poultry Journal we are permitted to show this illustration of a specialty home-made drying coop for use in the washing of fowls for exhibition. In order to make one of these coops it is almost necessary to use the copper heater and tank as well as the lamp of an old incubator. The balance of the drying cage can be made according to the above plan and by following the illustration. We prefer drying fowls in cages, however, having but one fowl to the cage.

By the time the birds have been in the drying coop from eighteen to twenty-four hours, they could, if necessary, be removed and placed back in the coops of the training room, thus making additional space for other birds to be washed. With arrangements made for caging the fowls that have to be washed, and for properly caging them during the drying period, we are now ready to provide the necessary appliances for washing the fowls. These consist of four large tubs which are thoroughly clean, two boilers,



and an ample supply of rain water, if it is possible to obtain same. We should have a good sized dipper, two pails for transferring water from the boilers to the tubs and also for providing plenty of fresh water for rinsing and bluing.

It is well to have a good stiff brush for brushing and cleaning the feet and toes, and another brush, with soft fibres, for use on the plumage. This will be described later. It is also advisable to have two good stout sponges and a certain quantity of hydrogen of peroxide on hand.

In washing the fowls, if they are fairly dirty, each tub of water should be emptied and fresh water supplied every fourth to sixth bird. This is especially necessary in the case of the three tubs containing the two rinsing and one bluing waters.

While the water is becoming hot in the boiler, take a certain amount of White Ivory or Williams' shaving soap according to the number of birds to be washed and cut it into real thin slices, placing same over the fire in a vessel of hot water until it is boiled and thoroughly dissolved. One bar of soap should also be shaved into the boiler and allowed to thoroughly dissolve.

One boiler must have clear water. By the time this has been heated, place about six to eight inches of good warm water into your first tub, which contains the soapy water. It should not be too hot, but should be hot enough to hold one's elbow in comfortably, say 110 degrees of heat. The next tub should be half filled with water not quite so hot, say 90 degrees; the fourth tub should be fairly well filled with clear water, which should be quite cold. The water in the fourth tub must have bluing in it. We prefer using Ball Bluing instead of Liquid Bluing. The Ball Bluing can be better mixed with the water without any danger of an overabundance adhering to the sides of the tub. It is well to take four or five balls of the Ball Bluing and wrap them in a muslin cloth, tying same securely with a string. Mash balls in this sack. Blue the water to about the same color as you would use for ordinary white clothing if you are intending to wash birds that are to be exhibited within two to five days, but if you are intending to put your birds through two or three washes and are beginning to wash your birds four or five weeks prior to an exhibition then it is advisable to put more bluing in the water for the first washing. Color it sufficiently so that the birds will look quite blue when removed from the bluing water, and even after they are thoroughly dry. This will gradually bleach out in the course of a few days and will leave the bird whiter. Subsequent washings will remove any bluing that has not already disappeared, as a result of the air and other elements.

We are now ready to begin washing the bird. It is advisable to place the bird in the first tub standing firmly on both feet, having your assistant on the side of the tub opposite the head of the bird. The assistant should reach over, grasp the bird by both shoulders, close to the body and gradually submerging the bird, with the exception of the head and the upper part of the neck. Care should always be taken to prevent the bird from swal-

lowing any soapy water, as this acts quite freely on the bowels and often results in staining the plumage while the fowl is drying.



**Fig 13.**

**Fig. 13 represents the rinsing of a bird. We cannot afford to neglect the thorough rinsing of the bird. The wings represent a section that all too often are not thoroughly rinsed. The entire bird must be thoroughly dipped and washed in this warm rinse water until not a particle of soap is left.**

It is at this point that the washer must exercise the highest of all virtues—patience. Take it easy for a while, holding the bird down in the water partly immersed, then begin spraying water over the back and wing bows of the bird, using a good sized sponge and rubbing with the web of the feathers as they lay. Never rub against the web of the feathers until the fowl is thoroughly wet to the skin. The washer should always have the bird facing him. You will not find it a very difficult job to get all the feathers wet, and when this is done pour the melted soap, or at least a portion of it, into your heated water. Make a good lather and do not be afraid of dipping your sponge in the melted soap and applying same direct to the plumage of the bird, as rubbing it into the plumage of the bird will assist greatly in making up a desirable lather and will aid towards loosening the dirt from the feathers. Scrubbing the plumage with soap and lather cuts and loosens dirt, but it must be washed and rinsed out.

After the bird's feathers are thoroughly wet, you can rub them sidewise, but never rub them against the web until the feathers are wet to the skin. As you are going over the shoulders, wing-bows, back and under section of the bird begin parting the feathers with your left hand, pulling them back so that the bird's flesh is visible. Cease rubbing or washing for a few moments

and take your dipper or tin cup in the other hand and dip it into the water pouring it into the feathers thus washing out some of the dirt which you have already loosened from the feather web. By this time your fowl will have its feet and legs thoroughly soaked by the hot water. It should now be removed and placed quickly in the hammock. With the stiff brush, previously mentioned, go over its legs and toes thoroughly, especially the toes, as it is here so many overlook proper grooming. Do not let this operation, however, consume over two or three minutes, after which the bird should again be placed in the water and washed thoroughly, section by section. Start with its neck and do not overlook that portion immediately underneath the wattles and earlobes. Follow down to the under portion of the hackle where it laps over on to the shoulders. Thoroughly wash the wing bows. Open out each wing and wash the main wing feathers on both the upper and underneath side. Then work thoroughly over the back, down over the hips and on to the sides of the bird underneath the wings.



Fig. 14.

The last stage of washing, so often practiced by many very successful washers and exhibitors. Personally, we have had our best results when we did not dry or wrap the birds in towels, but placed them, directly from the bluing tub, into the drying room cages.

Extra precaution must be taken to get all the dirt out at the base of the tail. Many overlook this section. Be very thorough, also, in washing the body fluff, underneath the tail, and about the abdomen.

You are now ready to have your assistant hold the bird up by one wing shoulder and by one leg. Thoroughly wash the thighs and around the hock joints and put in extra work in thoroughly washing the breast, as many birds have their breast feathers partially stained. You may have to wash these feathers with the soapy water two or three times in order to get the loosened dirt out, and then re-scrub the breast again with a soapy lather.

You will find that you can hold a bird's body under water for some minutes and when taken out the under portion of its feathers in many parts are not rinsed out, or, if the bird has been dry previously, they will not be wet at all.

One of the great secrets of a successful wash is, first, to thoroughly wet the feathers all over down next to its skin before applying any soap; second, thoroughly open up the plumage and rinse out the dirty water and then resoap with fresh soda and melted soap. By this time you can disabuse your mind of the idea that you are handling something that is brittle and likely to break, for when the feathers are once thoroughly soaked you may treat them as you would a piece of flannel, rubbing them backward, sidewise and forward and completely getting every particle of dirt washed out.

We have had our greatest success by taking the soft brush mentioned above and thoroughly brushing with the lay of the feathers, those of the neck, shoulders, main wing, back, saddle, breast and tail. This will more thoroughly part the web of the feathers and often loosens up the dirt, which ordinary rubbing and scrubbing does not do. We next take some of the melted lather, which by this time should be sufficiently cool to permit the placing of one's hand in it, rub just a little of this over the surface of the bird and then proceed to sponge it in. Wash the lather out as much as you can with the hot water, and remove the bird from this tub. Place the bird in the next tub of hot water. Many make the mistake of having their second tub of water too cool. This often sets the dirt and soapy water, and results in some of the dirt clinging to the fowl's plumage. In the second tub get every atom of the soapy water possible rinsed out of the bird's plumage, after which take the bird out and place it in the third tub, which is also warm, but not as hot as the two previous tubs of water. Go through the same process of rinsing it, only be even more thorough. When you think you have every bit of soapy water rinsed out, rinse it some more for good measure. The eye cannot detect the remaining soapy water, but an experienced washer will be able to tell by feeling the surface of the feathers. However, it is underneath, at the base of the tail and underneath the wings, between the thighs and lower abdomen, that so many breeders fail to get all of the soap out, and unless the soap is all removed the plumage will not dry and fluff out as it should.

After you have thoroughly rinsed the fowl, it is well to hold its feet up, permitting its head to hang down. Hold the fowl first by one leg, then by the other, and use your dipper freely, pouring water down over the thighs through the back, tail, wing, breast and feathers of all sections. Then stand your bird on both legs and submerge him in water, which will serve to straighten out the feathers and make them lie down on the body in their natural direction.

You are now ready to put the bird in the bluing water. Before a bird is placed in freshly prepared bluing water, a cloth should be run through same to take up surplus bluing. Stir your bluing water up just a little, then submerge your bird as quickly as possible, and in addition to doing this hold him up by the legs in the manner described for rinsing and pour the bluing water so that it will thoroughly pass its way through the under portion of the bird's plumage in every section.

Again stand the bird on both feet in the bluing water, place both hands on his shoulders and press him down underneath the water, with the exception of his head and mouth. This will result in straightening out the feathers so they will lay properly, which is quite necessary before the bird is placed in a drying coop. Placing one hand on the outside of each shoulder and, with your fingers underneath the breast, gently life your bird up. Hold it firmly. Bring it up level with your head and give it one shake downward. Carry it quickly to the drying coop, placed fairly close to some source of heat.

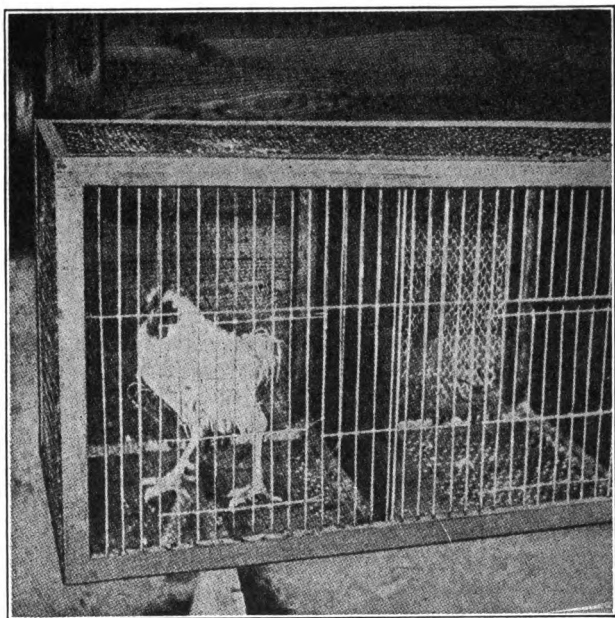
The proper temperature in the drying room should be about 95 degrees, and should be at a point level with the center of the coop. However, before we pass from the washing to the drying period, there are two or three things which do not apply in all cases, which it is well to remember while washing fowls. Oftentimes we have birds to wash that have permitted the tips of their wing feathers to become stained or discolored. This is also true in the case of Cochins, Light Brahmas, or other feather legged fowls, and in the event of such a case it is desirable to thoroughly wash the tips of the wing feathers or foot feathering before going through the full process of washing the bird as a whole.

A few words especially pertaining to the washing of the head will not be amiss. Take the head and place it between both hands, rubbing your hands backwards and forwards, as if you were washing a ball, and going on down do the same with the neck, continually using a little lather or melted soap.

Do not, under any circumstances, use towels or cloths to endeavor to rub fowls partially dry. We have had much better success where we have allowed the birds to drip dry. Do not make any effort to squeeze or wring the water from the bird's plumage, especially from tail or saddle feathers.

It is useless to attempt to apply any bleaching liquid at this state, for the water, in dripping from the fowl's plumage, will carry the bleaching compound away with it.

If you have a bird which has many partially matured feathers, these will give white birds a creamy appearance. It is well to use hydrogen of peroxide quite freely, but if this is to be used wait



**Fig. 15 shows a bird when first taken from the last bluing and rinsing water and placed in its drying coop. A pretty sorry looking specimen just now, but a few days later this particular cock bird was a first prize winner in one of the largest shows of the country.**

until your bird is a little dry. The proper time is when the bird is partially dry around the head, which will be easily noticed. By this time the majority of the water which is going to drip freely from the bird's body will have done so and you are free to remove the bird from the drying coop, then with a small sponge thoroughly saturated with peroxide go over the feathers, parting them sideways and getting the peroxide into every section and into the underfeathers of the fowl.

In case you have birds which are decidedly creamy colored, in fact, inclined towards "brassiness," you will find that it will take several applications of peroxide to remove this color. It is such birds as those showing "brassiness" on the surface that you should start washing several weeks before the show. The elements and air following the use of the peroxide is what does the work. You cannot expect the instant touch of the peroxide to turn a creamy colored or brassy feather white. Most all white birds have a little creaminess, and as long as the Standard calls for a popcorn white color you will find that the majority of the experienced breeders will use some process of whitening their birds

so as to better suit the eye of the judge. Furthermore, the use of hydrogen peroxide, " $H_2 O_2$ ," gives the feathers a glossy appearance.

After having gone over the bird with hydrogen peroxide, it is often advisable to dampen a cloth with a few drops of spirits of ammonia, applying this overly strong. Care must be taken not to let the peroxide get on the legs or feet of yellow skin fowls, as this will bleach them. This is not wanted, for they should retain their yellowish color.

While drying observe the bird often to be sure they are not drying too fast, for if they dry too fast their feathers will curl. This will spoil them and it can never be fully remedied. Plenty of fresh air; plenty of moisture; heat averaging around 90 degrees; gradually removing the bird away from the main source of heat, a few inches at a time, and permitting them to dry slowly; and allowing from eighteen to twenty-four hours before they become thoroughly dry are the necessary points that will mean success in properly drying fowls. Furthermore, birds should not be handled and removed from the coops while drying, if it can be avoided, other than the first removal for the purpose of using the bleaching preparations, as before mentioned.

If any droppings are noticed on the floor of the drying coops they should be removed with a piece of pasteboard, for if the bird should sit down it would very likely stain its breast and fluff feathers.

In the course of twelve or fifteen hours, the bird will give an appearance of being thoroughly dry, but a careful examination will show that in the heavy feathered sections and underneath the wing the bird is likely to be quite damp close to the skin.

In some varieties it is advisable to use either a palm leaf fan, an ordinary electric fan, or an electric hair dryer, such as is used by barbers for drying the hair of their customers.

The fanning process, however, should never be used on varieties which should have a hard, firm appearing body, such as Leghorns, etc., but in the case of Wyandottes, Orpingtons, Brahmas, Cochins and varieties that should be loose feathered it is advisable to use some method of fanning the plumage. For example: If you have an Orpington that is not quite broad enough appearing or hardly full enough in the appearance of the breast, you can hold the bird so that the air from the fan will blow the breast feathers out and upward. This causes them to finish drying in a fluffy and loose way.

In the case of the bird appearing too narrow, blow the thigh feathers, the plumage between the thighs, and the body fluff feathers back against the grain. If, in the case of an Orpington or Wyandotte, the back is a trifle long or flat, blow the back feathers backwards, which will cause same to become more fluffy and lay more loosely at the junction of back and tail. This gives a more gradual slant and approach from back to tail and often greatly improves the general appearance of the specimen.

Many exhibitors use cornstarch or other powder and thoroughly dust the birds when they are dry, and before starting them on their way to the exhibition. This is done on the theory that

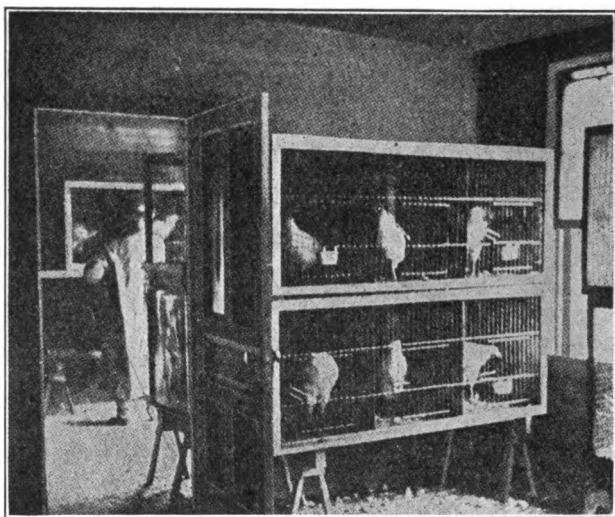


Fig. 16 shows two rooms for training and drying. The first room contains the drying cages which have been moved back against the wall in order to have them as far as possible from the main source of heat while the birds gradually become dryer. In the next room, where the temperature is considerably cooler, the birds are permitted to finish their drying process for perhaps six to ten hours before they are placed in the shipping boxes to be sent away, by express, to the exhibition.

any dirt that settles on the plumage will be removed by the starch as it works upward and outward. This practice, however, has been done away with by the more prominent and successful exhibitors of the present day. It seems to affect the beautiful natural surface appearance of the fowl and, furthermore, is very distasteful to the judges and to visitors who might have occasion to handle the birds.

By this time you will be able to observe the result of your work, although it may be that another ten or twelve hours will make your birds appear to better advantage.

If any of the fowls which are thoroughly dry appear a little sticky and do not open nice and fluffy, which will not be the case if your rinsing, bluing and drying has been properly done, place your boiler and tubs in order again and with clean water go through the work of rinsing, bleaching and drying of those particular birds a second time.

After your birds are thoroughly washed and dried, ready to be placed in their shipping coops, place them back in their drying coops, or, if you are so equipped, place them into clean, freshly bedded exhibition coops in your training room until you are ready to box and ship them away to the show.



During the drying process and this time do not give the birds any more water to drink than they will consume quickly, but give them a little water several times during the course of a day. Feed them only on hard grains. This hard grain should be supplied in a cup attached to the front of their cages. In carrying birds from one room to another, both at this time and while they are in their cages, see that they are not in a draught or where they are liable to catch cold. If you are unable to use sawdust chips for bedding, use only good, clean, bright straw. This is preferred to hay, alfalfa leaves, or any other form of vegetable litter, as the latter kind all too often contains dust which discolors the plumage of the fowl.

It is well to thoroughly examine your white birds, going through the same process of handling section by section, as if you were the judge, judging the birds. In most any white birds you are apt to find an occasional feather with grey or black specks on it, and the whiter they are the more apt you are to find this off-colored feather. If this appears in the quill in any section, except in the main tail or wing feathers, it is best to remove the feathers, but if the specks are out in the feather, the gray or black can be removed by the use of a pair of manicuring scissors. Simply clip the web at a point below the speck of off-color, or you might say between the speck and the quill of the feathers. If this speck of gray or black is of considerable size, it is then better to clip the web in a more or less ragged manner. A little practice will enable you to perfect this work.

Generally, it is not advisable to wash dark or parti-colored birds, although it is often done and a marked improvement shown, but in cases where such varieties are washed for exhibition it can be done considerably in advance of the show, and after the bird is thoroughly dry rub or polish him with a silk cloth. This will bring back the luster and improve the general color. Of course, in washing dark, buff or parti-colored birds never use bluing in the rinse water.

Many breeders improve the plumage of their parti-colored birds by taking a clean white handkerchief and holding it over steam from boiling water until it is quite moist. Using this go over the entire outer plumage of the bird, rubbing it gently, but constantly enough to remove the dirt and brighten the plumage. A sponge dampened with ammonia can also be used to advantage at this time. One week before the birds are to be shown they can be confined in large, clean, roomy coops or houses with plenty of clean straw for litter. If the birds are kept out of the sun and placed in a room with clean litter they will often do much toward cleaning themselves.

## PREPARING EXHIBITION FOWLS FOR SHIPMENT

### Chapter 11

A great deal more depends upon properly cooping your exhibition birds for shipment to shows than is generally believed. Many breeders try to be saving and in this desire they fail to use as many shipping coops as they should. Outside of females, intended for exhibition in an exhibition or display pen, not more than one bird should be placed in a coop. Male birds should always be placed in coops by themselves. Females entered in a single class should be cooped by themselves. Before cooping the birds, examine all the coops and be certain they are firmly put together. We have known cases where valuable birds had their legs broken on account of a board in the bottom of the coop becoming loose, permitting the foot to push through as it was being slid onto a truck or platform.

Examine every bird carefully before placing it in the shipping coop. Every section should be gone over once more very carefully, to make sure there are no off-colored feathers. In white birds look for flecking, either black or gray spots. In buff birds look for mealy or badly faded feathers, as well as any feathers at base of tail or neck showing white in the undercolor. In Red birds, look for feathers having smut in their undercolor, white at base of tail or neck: also remove any feathers which

have "gone by," showing too much shaftiness or mealiness or a faded out color—appearing old. In Barred Plymouth Rocks go over every bird, section by section, looking for any feathers that are irregularly barred or black.

In the case of Silver or Golden Wyandottes, it is often advisable to pluck a few of the feathers from the breast, wing-bow, and back. This causes the open lacing effect to show off to a much better advantage. This is called the "thinning out" process. In addition to this, fowls of these varieties should be carefully examined for any feathers that have frosted edges, or where the back lace does not come clear around to the points of the feathers following the outer line of the surface to the under fluff of the feather, and same should be removed. We must remember that every variety produces quality birds that have here and there a sport feather, and it is a common practice to remove these at home while preparing the fowl for shipment.

In bedding shipping coops, we prefer to use the chipped sawdust shavings already mentioned in the chapter on washing.

Extreme care should be exercised in placing birds in the shipping coop. Have a sufficiently large opening at the top. Lift the bird gently out of his training or exhibition coop by reaching in and taking him by the shoulder with one hand and pulling him towards the exhibition coop door, place the forefinger of your free hand between its thighs, then lift it off its feet and out the door. Set the bird down in the shipping coop as gently as possible, making sure that his head and breast goes downward first. This will prevent any feathers becoming broken should the bird suddenly take a notion to flop his wings.

There are many good chicken coops manufactured and offered for sale to poultrymen. We prefer one made of wood, as oftentimes the pasteboard coops become wet and are hardly strong enough to handle the birds safely. Shipping coops should be high enough to permit the bird to stand perfectly erect without his head and comb coming in contact with the top of the coop. Coops should not be too wide, but should be wide enough to hold the bird and not allow him to turn around in the coop. For every single bird of the American or English classes have a coop 22 inches high, 20 inches long and 10 inches wide. Female coops need not be so high, although it is better that they be too high than too low.

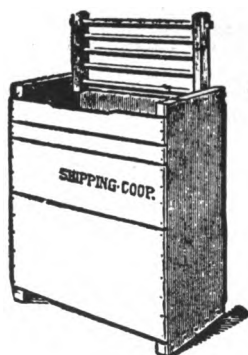


Fig. 17

This Fig. 17 shows an all wood shipping coop, which meets requirements for shipping birds for exhibition where the exhibition cages are furnished by the association. It is a very durable coop, one exceedingly handy for placing the birds in or removing same from it. Shipping coops like this are manufactured by the Empire Cooping Company of Fultonville, New York.

In warm weather, such as is usually had when shipping to a State Fair, one side of the coop should be open for ventilation and should be covered with fine mesh wire. Wire screening or mosquito netting is best if it is protected by strips of wood placed about three inches apart. This prevents anyone from bothering the birds while on the cars. In the case of white birds, however, the ventilation opening should be covered

with medium woven muslin. This keeps dirt and the like from settling on the plumage of the bird. If your birds are likely to be on the road to the show for a period of more than twelve hours some provision for water should be made, with the exception of in the case of white birds. In the latter case, it is better to put in two or three quartered potatoes. They will get enough moisture from eating the potatoes to keep them in good condition, and this method will lessen the likelihood of staining their plumage. On any short shipment of any variety, potatoes should be placed in the coops.

Hinged covers on coops are a convenience and allow plenty of room to remove the bird without danger of breaking or soiling the plumage. If nailed on, as is generally the practice, only one slat is usually taken off, and it is a tight squeeze to get the fowl out through the small opening thus made.

At most shows, competent superintendents are provided and it is not necessary to go to the show to uncoop or to coop your own stock. This reference is made to the style of show that furnishes the exhibition cages. In other types of shows it is necessary to ship your birds in exhibition cages. It is, of course, desirable for you to be at the show if you can, but it is not necessary.

If you are showing a string of white birds and are in the show room when your birds are uncooped and placed in their exhibition cages, it is well to see that your fowls have had a satisfying, but limited drink of water at once, after which their water cans should be emptied. Very often birds will stain up their lower neck and breast plumage by slopping in too much water. It is advisable to purchase a sufficient quantity of cheap cloth and cover the cages containing your fowls until a short time before the judges begin their work. In the average show room a certain amount of dust is created through the work of straightening up the show, setting up the coops, uncooping fowls, and the like. A certain amount of this dust will quite naturally settle on the plumage of your well-groomed birds. Every possible precaution should be taken to keep your fowls clean and spotless until the judging has been completed. Even then, it is desirable to keep your birds in the best possible condition throughout the entire week. Many exhibitors cover their cages every night at the closing hour of the show and remove the covering the first thing each morning.

## **TRICKS OF THE TRADE IN EXHIBITING POULTRY**

### **Chapter 12**

#### **Changing or Switching Birds and Leg Bands**

We do not wish to encourage faking, in fact, we want to discourage it, but we wish to encourage every legitimate practice that will give you an advantage. One thing which is often done in the show room prior to the hour when the judging begins is to switch birds to fit the competition. This means changing the band numbers on the birds as originally placed on them when they left home.

Usually the birds are cooped for a few hours before the judging begins. This gives you a chance to look over all the birds in the class. If you should have entered two single cockerels and you also have two other cockerels heading breeding pens, it is possible you will find that by having the best cockerels in the single class instead of in your exhibition pens that you could win first cockerel, whereas the pen class competition is so keen that even with your best cockerel heading your exhibition pen your best hope for an award would be second or third place; or the case might be reversed. You might find, in looking over competition, that the best cockerel you have is entered in the single class and the competition is too keen for its quality. He cannot win more than third or fourth place, but you could strengthen your exhibition pen by placing your best cockerel in it and removing the cockerel already in that pen, placing him in the single class. You would be sacrificing everything, no doubt, to win a place in the pen class, but increasing the likelihood of winning only second, third or fourth cockerel.

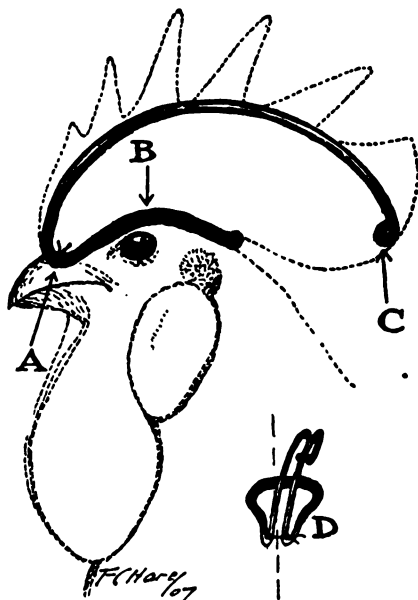
You might find, in looking over the pen classes, that you have first place won easily and that you can take one of the two pullets entered in the single class, the poorest one of the two, and place her in your exhibition pen without weakening it sufficiently to lose first pen. At the same time, remove the best pullet among the four in your exhibition pen and put her into the single class. This will give you a stronger chance of winning first and second pullets.

Never switch your bird to fit competition or for any other reason without also changing the leg bands so that they will correspond with the records and the secretary's books. This practice often gives you a big advantage over an exhibitor, and it is perfectly legitimate. The birds belong to you and you have a perfect right to exhibit any cockerel you have there and which is entered in the single classes or in the exhibition pen class, or whichever way you desire to place them. Whatever changing of the birds is done must be completed before the time the judging of your variety is to start.

By becoming a careful student of the Standard requirements of your variety and by making a careful study of the class or competition, you can make wise changes before the judging is done. Very often this will result in a good winning where you might otherwise have won nothing.

### How to Brighten the Color of Comb, Face and Wattles

For brightening the comb, face, and wattles of fowls, we have had our best success by using a cloth dipped in pure vinegar. This should be applied to the head points of the bird just before shipping to the show and again upon its arrival at the show, and especially early on the day when it is to be judged.



COMB GUARD

Fig. 18.

Fig. 18 shows a guard which is made of soft copper or brass wire of the above design. At "A" a thread twist is run with a needle through the nostrils and the guard is tied in position. The section marked "B" is wound with waxed string on top to prevent it marking, rubbing or irritating the flesh of the comb. The hooked point is to keep the point of the guard from pressing into the comb. "D" is the front view of a guard for a comb that leans to the left, opposite way to which the guard leans. Should the comb lean to the right the guard should lean in the opposite direction from this illustration.

## How to Straighten a Comb When It Has Become Lopped Through Over-Heating or Through Pressing Against Coop

We have known many instances of fowls required to have a straight, single comb, which should stand erect, becoming heated en route to the show or after reaching the show room, resulting in the comb suddenly swelling. In this event, especially if it is very fine in texture and inclined to be thin, it will very often begin lopping to one side or the other. In cases of this kind, the best results will be obtained by purchasing six or eight ounces of pure ether. Saturate your handkerchief with the ether, hold the bird in your lap, place the cold, wet portion of the handkerchief over the comb of the bird and hold it there. It is not the mere contact of the ether onto the comb that will give you the desired result, but, with the ordinary comb, by applying this treatment for fifteen to thirty minutes at a time, putting the bird back into the cage for about one hour and then repeating the treatment, continuing this practice for five or six hours, you will find that, following the third or fifth treatment, the comb will have shrunk back to its natural size and will be perfectly straight.

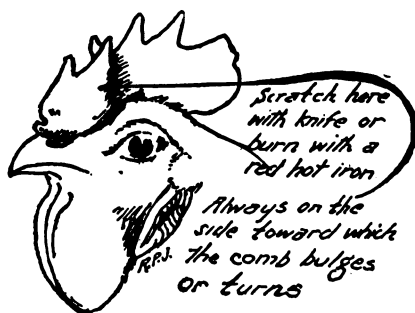


Fig. 19.

Fig. 19—Feeding too much animal feed, meat, milk and the like often results in combs on youngsters, bred from ancestors with stout, firm, even, rigid comb, becoming twisted. Then, again this same defect is noticeable as a result of breeding. The arrow point in the above illustration indicates where to prick the comb with a needle point or to scratch lightly with the blade of a pen knife, in order to make it straighten up. Make it bleed and repeat the process if necessary.

### A Frequent Cause of Large, Beefy and Lopped Combs

Many exhibitors, both before and during the show, make the serious mistake of feeding too heavily of fresh meat. The feeding of much meat to birds confined to a warm pen or show room will, in many cases, cause the combs to grow rapidly and develop beefiness, thus causing them to fall over to one side.

### How Foreign Color Is Removed From Beaks

A small amount of black or brown color may sometimes be removed from yellow beaks by using fine sand-paper, the blunt edge of a broken bottle, or an ordinary finger-nail file. The beak should not be filed down enough to cause pain to the bird. If this is necessary, the defect is so deeply rooted that it cannot be removed.

### How Ear-Lobes Are Treated to Improve the Color

In some cases of defective lobes, the white spot on a red ear-lobe can be dyed with vermilion or permanganate of potash. The proper strength of these dyes to use depends upon the shade and color of the lobe. There are no dyes that will completely cover large spots in enamel white. We do not recommend the use of vermilion or permanganate of potash. If one wants to stoop to the method of changing small white spots on a red ear-lobe, which in many varieties is a disqualification, the

best results are obtained when using a small hypodermic needle. Get red ink about the correct shade to match the ear-lobe color and inject a small amount of this underneath the thin skin of the lobe where the white spot appears. Do not prick the skin deep enough to draw blood. Pleasing results may be obtained by applying oxide of zinc ointment to white ear-lobes that have become creamy. It should be rubbed well into the skin once a day. The dry powder may also be used if the lobes be well dampened and dried before appliance. There are acid treatments for ear-lobes, but it is cruel treatment and always leaves a scar.

Sometimes birds that are closely confined and have been highly fed for show condition will develop a mild form of eruption or circles on their ear-lobes which may be considered by the judge as an attempt to remove off-color. In such cases, give the bird ten grains of bicarbonate of potash and ten grains of Epsom Salts. Anoint the lobes with carbolated vaseline, rubbing it well into the skin.

### Coloring Yellow Legs

The practice of coloring yellow legs, or rather those that are supposed to be yellow, but which are altogether too much a straw or light color, is in positive violation of the American Standard of Perfection and should not be practiced. However, many breeders use butter color for adding strength of color to the legs of yellow legged fowls. The recipe is three drops in a teaspoonful of sweet oil. Apply the mixture to the legs with a flannel cloth and avoid getting it into the plumage. Apply a very small amount at a time and rub it in well. Also, extremely light applications of iodine rubbed in well in the same manner will increase the color of yellow legs.

### Remove Traces of Stubs From Legs

This is one of the worst forms of faking and is positively against show rules and the Standard of Perfection and should not be indulged in by any honest poultryman. Special treatment is not necessary where the defect consists of only down or very small stubs between the toes, but in the case of feathers or stubs along the sides of the legs being removed it will leave a hole which discloses the fact that they have been removed. These holes are sometimes plugged with soap or wax.

### How to Strengthen Birds Which Suddenly Develop Leg Weakness Just Before or During an Exhibition

A forcing diet, such as is often necessary in getting birds in show condition, will sometimes produce leg weakness to such an extent that the bird can remain on its feet for only a few moments at a time. The treatment in such cases is as follows:

Sulphate of Iron-----	1 grain
Sulphate of Quinine-----	½ grain
Phosphate of Lime-----	1 grain
Strychnine -----	1-16 grain

This mixture should be made up into twelve pills of equal size and one given to the afflicted fowl each day.

### How to Work on Back Plumage to Improve Both Back and Tail Shape

Great improvement may be made in the shape of the back and tail by manipulation of the feathers at or near the base of the tail. The bird must be washed, and when the feathers are damp, but in the process of drying, they should be slightly curved and fluffed into shape so the low place at the base of the tail is filled out considerably and a symmetrical curve of the back is secured. Many breeders have followed the practice of making a saddle out of cotton, and raising the feathers which lay over the base of the tail and placing the cotton saddle next to the flesh and letting the feathers lay over the cotton while they are still wet, permit them to dry in that position. If a bird has a cushion that

is not desired, this can be lowered some by pulling out a good many of the rear back feathers here and there.

### **How to Prevent Diarrhea in Washed Birds**

Often, during the process of washing a fowl, it will swallow more or less of the soapsuds and soapy water. This brings on diarrhea, as a rule. This, of course, has a tendency to soil the fluff plumage and may get the bird out of condition. Give it a good feed of boiled rice which has been liberally sprinkled with prepared powdered chalk.

### **How to Prevent Colds When Birds Are Washed**

A wet bird placed in a slight draught will surely catch cold and make it unfit for showing. In cases where there seems to be any danger of this, give the bird three drops of spirits of camphor on a tablespoonful of mash food as soon after washing as it will eat.

### **How to Revive Birds Which Have Fainted While Being Washed**

Oftentimes a bird will faint while being washed, on account of the water being too warm or from lack of proper ventilation in the room, and unless something is done to revive it at once the bird may not recover. In such cases, it should be removed from the tub as soon as the head and neck appear limp or there are any other indications of the fowl fainting and be immersed immediately in cool water.

This fainting condition is caused by the action upon the bird's heart produced by the water being too hot or too cold, by the shock of too sudden immersion, or by lack of ventilation in the room. Deaths may be prevented and the fainting spells eliminated by taking care that these causes are not present.

### **How White Tips Are Removed From the Main Wing Feathers of Dark Colored Fowls**

Foreign color, lacing on the extreme edge of the feathers, or white tips are sometimes removed by wearing away the edge with pumice stone. A method more commonly practiced, however, is to slightly singe away the foreign color, following the general shape of the feather by the use of the red end of a lighted cigar.

### **How to Properly Handle a Bird**

Be careful in taking fowls out of coops to prevent any injury to their plumage. Never grab them by the legs. Some reach over the fowls' backs and grab them by the wing on the far side and draw them out head first. An experienced hand can do this nicely, but others are liable to have trouble, as there is a certain knack in using this method. The best way for beginners is to reach in with the left hand, place the hand on the bird's back and at the same time place the right hand under him with the palm upwards, letting your first and second fingers go between the thighs, and with the other fingers outside each leg lift the bird towards you. With a little practice the fowl can easily and quickly be taken from the cage. Another way is to put one hand on the bird's back, work the hand down over the far side of the bird and at the same time place the right hand on the other side of the bird, thus covering the wings with the hands, and with a firm hold lift the bird up. He will draw up his feet, and he should be drawn out quickly before he has a chance to get a hold on the edge of the floor with his feet. Always remove the bird head first.

### **Preventing Tail Plumage From Becoming Spoiled**

The tail feathers of exhibition fowls are often more or less rough or ragged along the edge of the web because of the perches being so close to the wall of the poultry house that the tails of the birds are

constantly rubbed or pressed against the walls. The perches should be far enough away from the walls so that the feathers cannot touch it. The same is true in regard to the size of the opening which the birds pass through when leaving the house. Then again, very often the nest boxes are so low that the birds will continually have their plumage rubbed by these boxes as they pass to and fro.

### How to Stop the Flow of Blood From Injured Combs or Wattles

In dressing wounds, especially those about the comb and head caused by fighting or from some other form of injury, the best remedy we know of is a powder known as Tanic acid. Place a pinch of this on the wounded spot and it will stop the flow of blood and cause it to heal quickly.

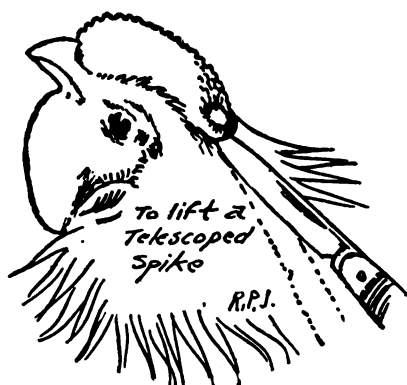


Fig. 22.

Fig. 22—Among Rose Comb varieties, occasionally, an unusually good specimen will be produced, having what is known as a telescope spike on the rear of the comb. If this is noticed when the bird is partially matured it can easily be overcome. Insert the point of a two edged knife between the skull bone and the "fleshy" part of the comb, as shown in the above illustration. The point of the knife will sever the cord which has drawn in and is holding the telescope point, or spike of the comb. In addition to severing this cord, press the point of the blade lightly upward. By pressing the comb with the thumb nails, on each side, the point will often "pop out," thus greatly improving the quality of the comb.

### How to Improve the Appearance of Birds Lacking in Breast Shape

If your bird is hollow, or not sufficiently rounded in breast shape, it is well to determine the exact time the judging will begin. At least two hours before this time, purchase a loaf of bread and get your fowl to consume as many small pieces of this as possible. It will fill out his craw and improve the breast shape. If your birds are a little tall on their legs or lacking in fullness of breast or abdominal sections, it is well to provide an abundance of litter in the floor of the coop, especially around the outer edges. The reverse would be the case in the event the birds are inclined to be a trifle short. In this event, the less floor bedding the better.

## PLAIN TALKS AND ADVICE TO EXHIBITORS

### Chapter 13

Under no circumstances should you feel that a judge is prejudiced against you or your birds. Harsh words cause trouble and much unpleasantness to everybody concerned. If you have any just reason for believing a judge is prejudiced against you or your birds, it would be better for you to keep your birds at home and not send them to a show



where this judge is officiating. Make it a point, regardless of what may happen, to always act like a lady or gentleman. Maintain your dignity, regardless of costs. Any demonstration of anger, any uncomplimentary remarks concerning a judge, the officers of an association, or your fellow exhibitors is bound to re-act and will turn people against you. You will thus lose the support you might otherwise have attained. Judges, like yourself, are only human, and are very likely to make mistakes. All of us, who do anything, do that. Mistakes are often made by some of our most learned judges in the highest courts in the land.

In the event that you are convinced that the judge has made a mistake in placing any award on your variety, it is much better to look him up in a very pleasant way and explain your view point and ask if, in his opinion, after considering the evidence you have given him, he has not made an error. If you can show that he has, and he admits it, but refused to correct it, you will then have cause for reporting the matter to the poultry show officials.

It is far better never to make a protest against the awards of the judges. It is very, very seldom that you will gain anything by it. It is much better to go to the judge and say, "Judge, I am confident that you have made a mistake in regard to such and such a variety. At least it looks like it to me. However, I am not saying a word to anyone other than to yourself. I wish you would go and look this up and in the event you are satisfied in your mind that I am right and that you did overlook it, you can remedy same by simply going to the officers and changing your award."

Regardless of what the judge does, you should never sign a protest unless you are absolutely sure of your ground, as very few protests are ever sustained. In the event you could not prove your case, and the protest should go against you and favor the judge, you would lose a great deal more in popularity than you would gain by the protest. Never make a complaint to the judge in the presence of others. Choose the proper time and place. Do not speak of your disappointments or opinions of his error to others. By no means condemn the judge until you have given him a chance to explain to you. He, too, may have seen something on one or the other of the birds which you have overlooked. Always remember that the judge passes upon the birds as he finds them in the coop, and cannot take into consideration the different appearance of the fowls at your home or at the time they are placed in the coop. For instance, the comb on your bird may have become heated and slightly turned; something may have frightened the bird; he may appear unnatural in front of so many visitors; or he may lift his tail a little higher than usual. You still have the bird fixed in your mind as you were accustomed to seeing him each day at home.

Never talk to a judge while he is working on a variety. Wait until he is through, not only with your variety, but with all of his judging, and even then you should never direct a rapid fire of questions at the judge. Some judges haven't the ability to keep their minds on several things at a time and should you interfere with their work by asking them questions or talking to them in an unfriendly manner while they are judging, their thoughts are taken from their work and they are more apt to make mistakes. Some of these mistakes may work against your own fowls. Some judges are, simply because of habit and physical make-up, more pleasant and more apt to be obliging than others.

Some judges show a greater interest in answering questions and helping breeders with their problems than do others. That is all in the make-up of the judge. The fact that the judge is rather blunt in his replies, does not mean that in his heart he is not just as friendly towards you and your birds as any other person. However, the courteous, obliging and level minded judge is of great value to the average show. You should use your influence in getting such judges on in shows where you will exhibit.

Be a good fellow, a cheerful loser, a joyous winner, and remember that all the birds cannot win, neither can everyone have birds among the winners. Somebody must lose. Look over the defects in your own birds. Be as critical in examination of them as you are in the examination of those owned by your competitors.

Bear in mind that the judge sees your bird for a very short time, more than likely only once or twice through the process of judging. Against that you have spent much time in your yard and training room, examining your specimens, considering their good points and their defects. You must not expect the judge to form impressions in a minute which you have been forming for months. A judge cannot sit down and study over a bird as you have in the weeks and months gone by, because several others must receive his attention that day or the next.

In solid colored birds where foreign color disqualifies, such as in black and white fowls, added care must be taken not to break any main wing or main tail feathers, for birds of these solid colored varieties having broken wing and tail feathers are discounted a great deal more for this than are parti-colored birds, such as Barred Rocks and Silver Wyandottes. Regardless of color, it is poor business to have main wing and main tail feathers broken, as this is usually the result of causes which should have been prevented. Your coops and the doors to your training coops should both be large enough so that you are able to remove your fowls and handle them in such a manner that there will be no excuse for broken wing or tail feathers. Any small feathers throughout the neck, back, saddle, breast and other sections which are broken should be plucked.

No half-way business in the art of conditioning the birds for the show room will prove at all satisfactory. Unless you are determined to thoroughly condition your fowls, thoroughly wash them, and thoroughly clean their legs and toes, it would be far better for yourself, the show, and the Standard Bred Poultry Industry for your birds to be left at home. Bunglesome jobs in preparing birds for the show room are certainly worse than none at all.

We have seen combs and legs on birds in show rooms which were smeared with vaseline in which the dust and dirt had settled. The plumage on the birds were half washed and the dirt not entirely removed; the soap was not rinsed out and the feathers were gummy and sticky. Such birds are far worse in appearance than if nothing had been done to them whatsoever.

Never make the mistake of sending a bird to the show room that is not strong physically, for remember that the trip to the show and confinement in the coop will more than likely aggravate the physical condition of the bird and it will seldom, if ever, win a prize. Besides, you take a great risk of losing the bird and its future use.

In contemplating an exhibit at any show, remember that the rules were printed in the premium list to be read and followed. A strict enforcement of the rules by the average association is absolutely necessary for the good of the show. Unless you intend to abide by those rules, do not enter at the show. Regardless of whether or not fellow exhibitors abide by the rules, you should do so. Set a good example yourself of living strictly up to the rules. Get your entry blanks made out and into the hands of the secretary as early before the closing date as possible. Never make the mistake of failing to put the leg band numbers on your entry blanks.

Many breeders, who are in the habit of going to the show with their birds, and especially if it is a uniformly cooped show, plan on cooping or assisting in cooping their own birds, and, for this reason, believe it is not necessary to put leg bands on their birds until after they are in the show room. This is wrong. The leg bands are used by the secretary of the show for record purposes, other than for the correct cooping in and cooping out of the birds.

In any score card show, you must not expect to examine or handle the score card until they have been officially added up and signed by the judge and recorded in the book of the secretary, and until after all special prizes are figured out and awarded.

It may appear to you that you have a long time to wait before getting possession of your score cards, but remember there are many other exhibitors just as much interested and anxious as you are. You would be throwing yourself open to criticism and suspicion if you should handle the score cards before the proper records have been made from them.

Regardless of how much care is taken by the management of a poultry show, things will go wrong. Unfortunately, it seems as though no one is perfect. Therefore, you should try to help. Put your shoulder to the wheel. Do not complain of the methods when the officers are doing the best they know how. As a general rule almost everyone has more work than he can do at the average poultry show.

Join any poultry shows in your territory whose membership is open to the public and become an active worker. Do not shrink from duty at exhibitions. Attend the meetings. Don't stay away, and then criticize the actions of those who are bearing the burdens. Push! Pull! Lift! Have a voice in the affairs of the organization, but have it at the meeting. Even then there is a proper time and place for remarks on any subject.

## FITTING BANTAMS FOR EXHIBITION

### Chapter 14

Naturally enough, like men of small stature, we find that the tempers of Bantams vary to a considerable extent. The heavier breeds among the Bantams, such as the Cochins and Brahmas, give little or no trouble as far as their dispositions are concerned. On the other hand,

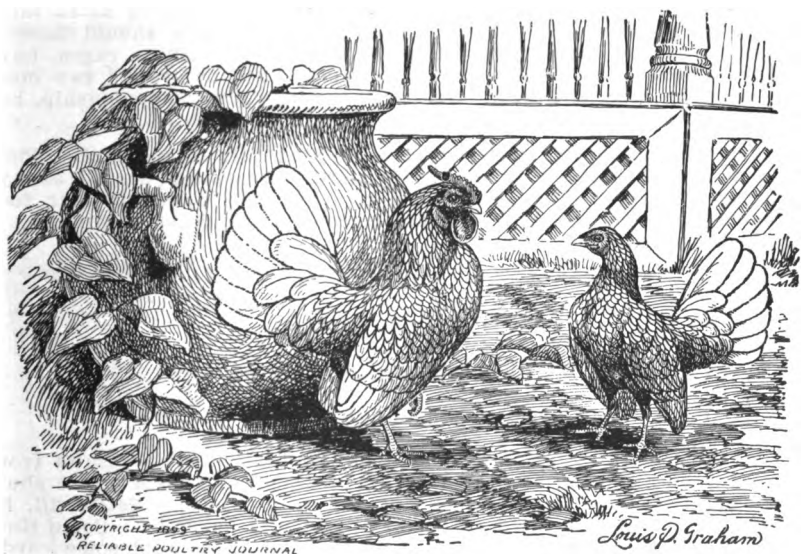


Fig. 23.

A pair of Silver Sebright Bantams.

we find a great deal of temper and high life displayed in the case of Games, Rose Combs, Sebrights, and the like; so much so that individual birds defy all efforts on the part of their owners to teach them to become steady and docile in the training coops.

The best thing for these active light weight fowls, and especially those individuals showing more temper than others, is a preliminary lesson through the medium of a good bath at least two to three weeks before an exhibition. Nothing seems to so tame and take the wild life out of a fowl, especially a Bantam, as a thorough washing.

It matters not whether the bird be white or some color, a good bathing will tame the wildest bird. It is not necessary to use soap or to be as thorough in the matter of trying to clean the fowl as would be the case if it were a white bird being washed, but a thorough washing in warm and cold water and a slow drying seem to accomplish the taming desired. Generally, especially in dark colored fowls, the plumage will lose a certain amount of its luster through the process of washing, but that will be renewed again before the show by proper feeding and polishing or rubbing of the plumage.

Competition in good shows is generally so close that condition and training plays a big part in awarding prizes on Bantams. Bantams should be more carefully trained for exhibition than poultry of other breeds; in fact, they will stand more confinement, more intensive work along this line, than will the fowls of which they are miniatures.

Coops used for the final training of Bantams should be similar to those seen at poultry shows. They should be arranged in a light and airy room or outbuilding. When first catching your Bantams and placing them in training coops, it is better to do it at night. They will behave better the following day and they can be put in their coops with less excitement. Furthermore, it is really surprising how much these active, nervous little fellows will stand in artificial light as against the natural day light.

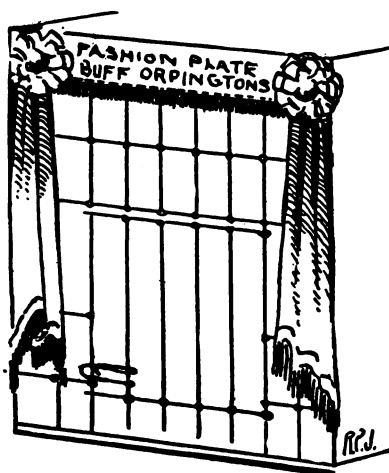
In training your Bantams, your principal work should be to tame them. In the case of Game Bantams, remember they should have a tall, long reach. Every time you come near their training cages, have a little something for them to eat. A small pinch of ground raw meat is relished by them and makes them appreciate your companionship, but always hold it high for that breed. Make them reach for it.

Feather legged Bantams should be bedded only on sawdust. Their quarters should be kept scrupulously clean. Droppings should always be taken up every day. In this manner, you will preserve their foot feathering and the chances of your success in making a winning is greatly improved.

## SHOW ROOM ADVERTISING

### Chapter 15

In order that an exhibitor may get the best possible results from the money he has spent in preparing his birds, placing them in the show room, and making a winning, he must be on the job. First of all, he should prepare some printed cards for advertising purposes. Some time before the show it is advisable to have printed or painted some cards about 18 inches long by 3½ inches wide. Only a few words in fairly large type should be used in the printing of these cards. These are known as coop cards and can be tied at the top of the exhibition coop or slipped through the wires of the front without covering too much



space, as shown in figure 27. Something like the following is a very good wording for the average coop card:

**FIRST RHODE ISLAND RED  
COCKEREL**

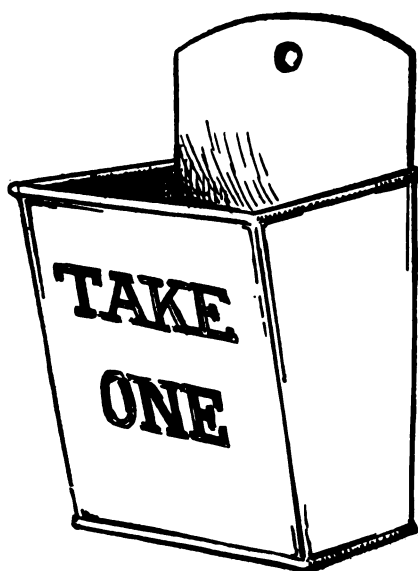
**Bred and Owned by  
M. J. Jones, Smithville, Mo.**

**Another sample shown below reads  
something like this:**

**BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS,**

**Winners and Layers,  
Bred and Owned by  
Charles Johnson, Jamesville, Ill.**

It does not cost much to print these cards, and in the event you have a good show string it is desirable to have some cards like the former, but you should have a full set printed. One for each prize offered in the classes in which you are competing, and some with simply the name of the breed or variety and your address, in case some of the fowls do not get ribbons at all. In the event you have some which do not fit the awards your birds have won you can preserve them for use in some other exhibition. It is really desirable to label every cage containing your birds for the advertising derived, as well as for the information of strangers and visitors in the show room. Never have cards or advertising of any character printed without using your complete address on them.



In addition to coop cards, it is advisable to have some neat business cards to give out to visitors. For these, it is a good idea to have a small tin receptacle made, similar to the one shown in the figure above. These can hang on your exhibition cages. You will be surprised how these cards will disappear from it, and very often good sales are the result.

# Suggestions for Practice

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1. Put all birds which you propose to exhibit in exhibition cages about one to two weeks previous to the date of the show. Visit the coops often. Take a judging stick and point it through the cage and get the birds to pose for you. Remove them from their cages. Handle them gently. Tame your birds so they will handle to the best advantage while being passed on by the judge. Make them feel that you are their friend.

2. Try moulting some of your birds by pulling the main tail and wing feathers about two months previous to a show, if it comes on an early date and the bird is showing no signs of moult. Be careful not to injure any feathers. It is a good idea to starve the bird by limiting its feed largely to green food and water for two weeks before you attempt to pull the feathers. That takes the fat out of the skin and the feathers die down to some extent.

3. If you have never exhibited any birds, fit and condition a few according to the instructions in this lesson. It will pay you to do this. If you don't win the first time, be a true sport and don't blame the judge or become discouraged.

## **QUESTIONS ON FITTING AND EXHIBITING STANDARD-BRED POULTRY**

### **Lesson No. 35**

1. Name two distinct branches of the business generally engaged in.
2. If your fowls are to be exhibited to the best advantage, what features should be included in the show room?
3. What is the object in exhibiting your fowls?
4. How long does a winning made at an exhibition continue to benefit an exhibitor?
5. What forms a foundation for the production of exhibition quality in any fowl?
6. Mention some of the advantages gained from exhibiting.
7. Name four important things which must be taken into consideration in selecting a bird for exhibition.
8. If you wish to produce an early moult, how can this be hurried to some extent?
9. How should you feed to increase weight and add lustre to plumage?
10. Name three important things to be done in training and fitting birds for the show room.

## **QUESTIONS ON FITTING AND EXHIBITING STANDARD-BRED POULTRY**

### **Lesson No. 36**

1. Mention three important things which must be done in properly washing and drying a bird.
2. What care should be exercised in shipping exhibition fowls?
3. Why is it often advisable to transfer leg-bands and switch birds after they have reached the show room?
4. How can you brighten the color of comb, face and wattles?
5. What method may be used to remove foreign color from beaks?
6. What can be done in some cases to improve shape of back and tail?
7. How can you improve the breast shape or height of birds thus defective?
8. How should an exhibition bird be handled in removing same from a coop?
9. What attitude should an exhibitor maintain toward the judge and show management?
10. What advertising may an exhibitor do in the show room which might prove profitable?

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# The American Poultry School

**Kansas City, Missouri**

*The Quisenberry Way  
Makes Every Hen Pay*



**WE HELP  
A. P. S. STUDENTS TO SUCCEED**

**LESSON NO. 37**

## **Poultry Clubs and Organizations**

**GENERAL COURSE IN POULTRY HUSBANDRY**

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# Poultry Clubs and Organizations

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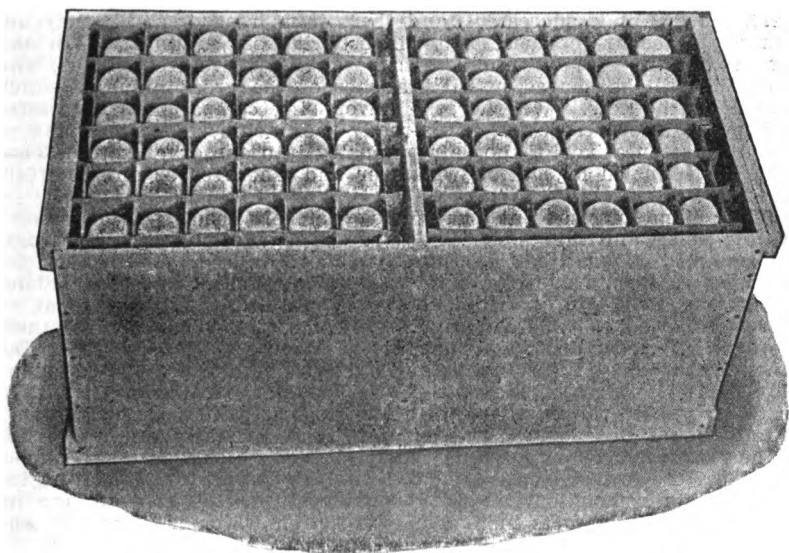
American Poultry School.

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There has been a wonderful growth of the club and co-operative idea throughout the U. S. These various clubs are having a great influence in increasing the production of farm crops per acre, teaching the necessity of saving much of the stuff that has heretofore gone to waste on the farm, spreading a knowledge of more scientific production of beef cattle and hogs, and, in many instances, stimulating poultry production and teaching better methods of marketing.

This lesson will treat more especially with the marketing and exhibition side of poultry products. If farmers and poultrymen throughout the country can get more lucrative prices there will be greater interest in the production side of the poultry industry.

Better organization work would mean a tremendous growth of the poultry industry. There is no business that does not thrive when it has been thoroughly organized and a well defined system introduced.



Use honest methods and co-operate with the poultrymen in your neighborhood so that a high quality product may be produced and command the highest prices.

## ORGANIZATION, THE POULTRYMAN'S ONLY HOPE.

In a conversation with one of the brightest and keenest of egg farmers, whose accounts are thoroughly systematized, this startling fact stood out prominently: That his lowest cost of egg production was 20¼ cents, and the highest 22½ cents for the past year, the cost of labor and feed being responsible. In the course of our conversation he remarked, "I am getting tired going to the mill and paying what they ask for feed and shipping my eggs to New York City and taking what they see fit to pay me. The millers are all organized and they have but one price, and you pay the price or you do not get the feed; the egg farmers have no organization and the result is that they are compelled to accept what the other man is willing to pay." He took the stand that so long as such things are allowed to continue it is absolutely impossible for the egg farmer to produce eggs at a profit.

The writer is intensely interested in the commercial side of this great industry and he took away with him from the above mentioned farm a lot of food for reflection. We all know what organization has done for the great steel, oil, coal and like industries but it is our purpose to confine ourselves to agricultural interests of which egg farming is a part.

We know that the raisin growers of California made a ten-fold increase in the demand for their product by organizing, raising funds, and advertising the merits of the raisins as a food product. We also know that the orange growers have done likewise, much to their financial advantage, and today one can scarcely pick up a popular magazine without seeing the advertisement of the raisin grower and orange grower of California. Coming a bit nearer home we find that recently the dairy interests have organized, under the name of the National Dairy Council, for the same purpose, namely, to make a broader and better market for milk and its products by educating the public through advertising. Thus far the organizations affiliated with the National Dairy Council represent 250,000 members who are also members of the Council. Their contributions for the purpose of advertising and otherwise promoting the consumption of dairy foods now amount to \$8,000 a month for 36 months. This is not the biggest, but it is the broadest advertising campaign ever undertaken. If it is successful, and there is no reason why it may not attain some measure of success, it will benefit more producers than any other promotion ever attempted. Its possibilities are tremendous, and its benefits will be shared by all branches of the great industry which is based on the cow. Whether the advertising campaign is successful or otherwise, one great thing has already been achieved—the getting of 250,000 representatives of the dairy industry into one organization. That should be potent in legislation whenever and wherever organized effort is needed.

There is no question but what the egg farmers need legislation above everything else, and this is especially true of legislation on cold storage, but it should be more liberal rather than more drastic. Let us look for a moment at the storage egg history. During the spring season about three years ago, large quantities of eggs went into cold storage at an extreme range of 18@23c a dozen, the bulk at 20@22c. Some of them came out in October at 24½@26c, in November at 22¼@24½c, in December at 24@25½c, in January at 18@20c, and the season wound up with the lowest prices of the year—16@22c, mainly 16@20c. It will be seen that some of the eggs bought at inside prices that spring and sold the following fall made a moderate profit, and that others must have cost their owners a heavy loss, particularly those which were held longest and sold at the lowest figures. Those who are asking for legislation imposing further restrictions and additional costs on the cold storage industry should study facts instead of the fiction which is so widely and carelessly circulated.

What has been the condition of the regular egg markets of three large cities? We find on certain years that the high price for firsts in the Boston market was 40 cents and the lowest price 20 cents; the average price for the year was 23 and one-third cents. In Washington, D. C., the high price was 36 cents, the low price 19 cents, and the average 22 and one-third cents. In New York City, high price, 36 cents, low price, 19c,

and the average 25 and three-fourths cents. When you consider the fact that these prices were for firsts and that a fair percentage of the eggs shipped into these markets will not grade first, the cost of transportation and commission, it is not at all difficult to see that so long as such things are allowed to continue, it is absolutely impossible for the egg farmer to produce eggs at a profit.

According to the Thirteenth U. S. Census, the average selling price of eggs throughout the towns of the United States a few years ago was 19.5 per dozen.

I know the question will be raised, "Why not sell direct to the consumer?" In some instances this is possible, but in the majority of instances the only outlet the farmer has is the regular commission market when eggs are bringing the top cent, and the cold storage plant when they are bringing the lowest cent, with the possibility of a demand for cold storage eggs at good prices when nearby fresh eggs are scarce and commanding top prices. How well this has worked out for both classes is clearly proven by the above.

We followed with much interest the American Poultry Journal's contest for the best articles on the "Net cost of a dozen eggs." Dr. Wood says that for the past five years he figures it has cost him from 24 to 29 cents a dozen to produce eggs and place them on the market.

Now that we are convinced, how are we going to remedy it? Can it be done by co-operation? We believe that organization is possible. We believe that if thoroughly organized it would revolutionize egg farming in America. If the dairymen in the United States can get together 250,000 representatives of the dairy industry into one organization, it clearly proves that we are weaklings.

There are more people engaged in raising poultry today than in the production of milk and cream and the making of butter. There is more money invested in poultry than in dairy herds. There is a greater revenue yearly from poultry and poultry products than from the dairy and dairy products. If this is true, why is it that the utility poultry interests are jogging along in the old stage-coach while the dairy interests are whizzing past in a 60-horsepower automobile; and they are not only now whizzing past with 60-horsepower, but, with the plans mapped out and executed, in a comparatively short time the horsepower will be increased to 80.

Mr. Egg Farmer, you should be vitally interested in this subject.

### WHY CO-OPERATE?

"The highest efficiency comes through co-operation. The big work of the world is done by co-operation. Tunnelling the mountains, digging canals, building cities can never be done by the individual. The individual is only a cog in the economic machinery of the world. Alone, the individual has little force, but united with a definite purpose, order and system spring from chaos. It is only by joining our energies with our fellow men that big movements are possible. It is absolutely impossible to attain the highest independence alone. We need our neighbors; we need our social life; we need the economic division of labor; and above all, we need the strong co-operation of our fellow poultrymen who are all producing the same thing. We must realize here and now that the poultry producers will never reach the highest market efficiency except through co-operation. Every line of production in the United States is more or less organized, and the more thorough the organization the less the economic waste. Without co-operation the citrus growers would have been out of business long ago. The raisin growers are putting a standard product on the market in an efficient way, that makes prosperity.

"The manufacturer of any article names the selling price of that article and it must sell for more than the cost of production or the maker goes out of business. Henry Ford does not turn his machines over to a merchant's exchange for them to gamble with and fix the prices.

"The commercial world is coming to a one-priced system and it will not be long till the price of eggs will not be a gamble running up and

down a sliding scale at the whims of a few men. Only a few years ago and there was no fixed price for any article on the market.

"The dealer paid as little as possible and sold for as much as the buyer could be coaxed into paying. I can even remember when we used to come home from the store and talk over the bargains that we had made on goods that were marked so much and we jewed him down to what we were pleased to call the right price. That day is almost over. We buy today and pay the price asked without questioning the honesty of the seller. There is a certain sense of business honor that belongs to the highest type of business man.

"What a jumble of things if all the produce were sold through a merchants' exchange! The man that produces the goods should be able to dictate the price, and so he does, in most productions. What an absurd thing it is that the men who produce the eggs have not the least power to fix the selling price of these eggs. Is it not the height of folly for eggs to soar to 60c or 75c at a certain season of the year, thus being unjust to the consumer, and then have them drop below cost of production at the season of the year when the producer might make some profit, thus being unjust to the producer? Under the existing system there is an injustice to both consumer and producer.

"We are producers of eggs. We know how much it costs to produce them. Do we know that we will be able to sell them at a profit? Is there any way by which we can say what we can afford to take for our eggs and give them to the consumer accordingly? One of the largest bankers and financiers of San Francisco says that we have absolute control of our own produce if we will only get together.

"This is our problem—getting together. We are all so busy producing our eggs that we seem to have little time to put much thought on plans of co-operation. Some of us are afraid that we will not help matters, and might make them worse. Some of us hate to give up that little private trade we have been working years to build up. Why, bless you, don't you realize that even your private trade prices are governed by the daily quotations? Our great question is, what power will bring all the poultry men into this Poultry Producers' Association?

### AUTO TRUCK TO COLLECT EGGS.

"Every poultryman realizes that we should get together. He knows this, but the task rather staggers him and he does not have confidence that makes for the strongest co-operation. Now, what one thing would make you, my fellow poultryman, join this association? Here is my own private opinion: If, on a certain day an auto truck would pull alongside of my egg room, load on all my eggs and give me due credit for same, and if I knew that on that same day next week and the week after the same truck would call in, and that I would form the habit of looking for the truck with the big letters, "POULTRY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION," do you think that I would trouble myself to try to sell my own eggs? Instead of you and I and all the poultrymen losing time to deliver our eggs, one truck for the purpose would make the rounds. What a saving in time and energy! This comes home to every rancher. If some ranchers lived off the truck route it would be a small matter for each neighborhood to have a central collecting place.

"This would enable all the farmers who raise only a few hens to co-operate also, and join in the work of making a fresh standard product. An instructor would go into each neighborhood and give directions for grading and packing the eggs so that they would be absolutely reliable. The system would be so perfect that any unreliable shipper could instantly be located.

"When this truck with the big letters, "Poultry Producers, Inc." had made its rounds, where would it take its load of eggs and live poultry? It has reached the producers directly, and there is not a producer along the line who will stand back and haul his own eggs to town. The eggs being on our own truck, it behooves us to have a place to drive to in order to begin proper distribution. We must have a central packing house in each district. This branch packing house should be modern and

up-to-date. It should have cold storage room enough to hold at least what cold storage eggs are needed for home consumption. It is absurd to have eggs shipped from a producing point to cold storage and then during the season of low production have them shipped back again for consumption. What a loss in time and freight each way, which makes a poorer quality. We should get our eggs into cold storage from the nest with the least possible delay and thus insure a better product.

### COST AND BENEFITS OF COLD STORAGE PLANTS

"What would it cost to put up a cold storage plant? I have approximate figures from one who installs cold storage plants. He says that a plant will cost in the neighborhood of one dollar per case of eggs stored. For example, a plant for ten thousand cases would cost ten thousand dollars. The larger the plant, the less per case. If this plant could put out a by-product of ice it might be able to make operating expenses. Otherwise, the operating expenses during the period of storage would not be more than one-fourth cent per dozen. Some say six cents per case.

"I have tried to get exact information as to the total cost of storing eggs. Members of the merchants' exchange say that it costs six cents per dozen to store eggs. For example, if they pay 21c, they must sell for 27c to come out even. At 28c they would make 1c per dozen. A private commission man says that it costs him four cents per dozen to store eggs, and that buying for 21c and selling for 28c leaves him a profit of 3c per dozen. A cold storage man says that eggs can be stored for 2c per dozen and that this covers operating expenses, interest on total investment, loss in eggs, etc. If this price of 2c per dozen is correct, there is a large margin of profit in cold storage eggs.

"Suppose that a district would erect a cold storage plant for ten thousand cases. This would accommodate one hundred poultrymen with an output of one hundred cases each during the four months of cold storage period. Suppose this was erected at a cost of \$10,000. Suppose that these eggs were stored at 21c per dozen. This year storage eggs were contracted for at 28c. If these ten thousand cases were sold for 28c per dozen and it cost 2c per dozen for storage, this would leave a profit of 5c per dozen or \$1.50 per case, or \$15,000 for the 10,000 cases. This would give \$150 each to 100 poultrymen for the storage period. This \$15,000 left each year in your home community would be worth while, and would be pretty good for a ten thousand dollar investment.

"What would be the advantage of the local cold storage plant? First, it would save freight rates both ways to the city on all cold storage products for home consumption. Second, it would be cheaper to erect a cold storage plant outside the city where property is less. Third, eggs would reach storage fresher and be of better quality. Fourth, and not the least, it would leave your money right at home, where it is earned and where it belongs.

"It would also be possible and feasible to have a grain warehouse in conjunction with this packing plant, where feeds could be delivered direct to the poultrymen at the bare cost of handling.

"This scheme brings the problem home to each rancher and it is, perhaps, the only way to get down to possibilities. When the locals are so organized, it will be a simple matter for all the locals to get together and arrange the central clearing house, which would receive all the overflow from each district.

"How shall we finance this enterprise? It would be a simple matter after the equipment is installed, for the banks will loan as high as 80 per cent on cold storage eggs and this would carry us over the spring months. How shall we raise the money to build our plant? There are two ways. The first way would be to approximate how many eggs each individual would place in storage for the year, this being done from the number of hens, and have him advance one dollar for each case stored. After canvassing the district and approximating how many cases would go into cold storage for the season and collecting a dollar advance on each case, we would have the necessary capital to erect the plant.

"If this could not be done, several poultrymen, whose means justified

it, could go to the bank and get a loan to erect the plant, going security. This, perhaps, would be the more difficult.

"The other plan, and one indorsed by several strong poultrymen, is that the Association get some representative to handle the Association's produce in the city, acting as our agent. The one cent per dozen accruing to the Association by our contract agreement will give the Association something like one hundred thousand dollars at the end of the year. This would give us a financial rating that would enable us to borrow money and do our selling direct to retailers.

"Then the problem would be as to how this capital should be divided in each district and all the necessary details worked out. This, perhaps, is the most feasible plan, for we could not hope to get equipment ready for business at once. This should not hinder any local district from going ahead and building its own storage plant as soon as possible, for it will be just as easy to ship storage eggs to the city as not. I believe each local district will have its own problem to solve, and the sooner this is done the better. All surplus could then be sent on to our representative in the city.

"We are trying a big thing, to be sure. Did Phil Armour realize when he was working by day in the stock yards in Chicago that some day he would have a packing house in nearly every large city in the United States? Did Heinz realize when he was canning pickles in that old shack that some day he would have canneries in every State in the Union, and that his 57 varieties would find the way to the dining tables of the world? Fellow poultrymen, we must get together and standardize our product and sell it ourselves, eliminating as much lost motion as possible between producer and consumer. Co-operation will eliminate lost motion, take up the 'economic slack,' and put egg-farming on a staple basis."

#### MARKETING THROUGH SCHOOLS.

The marketing of poultry products through the rural school would lay the foundation for the better marketing of everything produced on the farm.

Many rural communities throughout the country are moving the scattered one-room school houses to a central place, building school houses that will accommodate several grades, and teaching such subjects that will fit for rural living rather than for life in towns and cities.

In many cases wagons collect the children and haul them to school. The wagon can be utilized to carry the eggs to the institution twice a week during the school term. A dark room can be made for candling the eggs. A trade can be secured that will handle certified eggs. In counties where this plan has been tried there are many families that clothe their children and pay their schooling expenses by the sale of eggs.

Prof. J. K. Morrison, an assistant instructor of this school, was requested by Dr. A. P. Bourand, Secretary of the Southern Education Board, to co-operate with the rural school supervisor of Mississippi to demonstrate the possibilities of this work in a few school centers. Rural Hill was the first school to be organized under this plan. This organization made good and there were times when eggs were selling at 13 cents locally when they were getting 25 cents.

If this plan can be started during the school session it will be possible for the Circle to co-operate in paying the expense of some boy to drive a team in order to collect the produce during the vacation. The cost of getting the eggs to market during the school year will amount to nothing and be a great stimulation to every boy and girl in the more intelligent handling of every farm product.

Farmers do not use the methods of big business. They know little of the art of standardization. They buy everything they use under a brand name. The brand under which they sell is "farm stuff," which immediately discounts the price, as buyers know of the prevailing carelessness of the average farmer. All must be punished who do not enter organizations and establish a name for themselves. There must be a separation of the particular farmer from the careless and indifferent kind. Organization is the keynote that means better prices and the doubling



of profits. Organization will bring standardization which is a guarantee of better prices.

Many students of the A. P. S. should become leaders in this work. The crying need of every rural community is leadership. With your superior knowledge you should be able to make the organization work go. By this means you become a benefactor and you can increase the prices of your own products.

It is much better, even though they are shipped in dozen cartons, to allow the eggs to remain open so that the agent who handles the eggs can handle them. This is certainly necessary in the first stages of this work. The agent can then report back to the leader of the club the offending members. The city agent, and not the customer who buys the eggs, must be the umpire, for, as a rule, if customers purchase bad eggs when they are buying eggs that have a guarantee on them, they just quit purchasing eggs under this brand name. One dissatisfied customer loses trade for the organization, and it is not long before the organization will go to pieces.

Our plan was to have each organization named by letter and each member had a number. We used what is known as the Bingo Egg Stamp. This stamp fitted over the big end of the egg and the name of the organization was printed around the circle: Miss. Co-Operative Poultry Association A-3. A is the letter for the organization, and 3 is the number of the member. In some cases eggs were sold to the consumer, but there is only a limited trade to be found. Only a certain number of cases can be guaranteed, as it is impossible to guarantee as many eggs for a year round trade as are produced in the highest producing season. A number of the eggs must be sold in the general market in the season of heaviest production. This method though will bring better prices for these eggs.

It may be more convenient for an organization to pay the local dealer a cent a dozen for acting as receiver. The method used in the rural school organization work is different from the Johnson County plan. As a rule, groups of farmers do not realize as they should the great importance of never sending a bad egg to the market. They do not realize the great risk of losing the trade for the entire community on account of the carelessness of the individual. For this reason, we prefer that members do not seal the egg on the farm. The risk of losing the trade is too great. The inspector should candle every egg to be sure that every one is sound.

### THE ORGANIZATION OF CO-OPERATIVE EGG CIRCLES.

A co-operative egg circle is an organization planned to market eggs frequently and to avoid or save much of the waste incident to present day methods of handling farm eggs. When farmers and farmers' wives group themselves into an organization and can have a regular output of high-class eggs they are enabled to get maximum prices. One man with five dozen eggs is compelled to sell them in the local market, oftentimes by the trade method of exchanging eggs for goods.

The merchant who buys does not know what he is getting. He knows that he has bought something with shells, shells that are sometimes white, sometimes brown, and sometimes a color halfway between. They have some clean eggs, but many are dirty. Under the present system which prevails over the greater part of the country the man who brings in a dozen shells, it matters not what they have in them, gets just the same price as the man who brings in a dozen eggs that would class in the eastern market as "near-by hennerys."

The Circle enables a group of neighbors to separate themselves from the careless lot and they are no longer dependent on the merchant who insists on buying eggs by the case count method.

Many millions are being lost by careless methods, but there is little hope of much change until a different method of handling poultry products is forced on the average buyer. The people who read certainly know how to reduce this great loss, but they are rather indifferent, because they see no advantage of handling eggs with care if their neighbors persist in their carelessness, and where there is no premium for their extra caution in producing good marketable eggs.

This is a matter of interest not only to the farmers, but to all the breeders of pure-bred stock. Just as soon as the farmer is convinced that uniformity counts, and that he must have pure-bred stock to produce uniform eggs, he will take more interest in buying pure-bred poultry with which to stock his farm.

There has been a time, not very far back, when eggs did not bring one-third as much as they do today, and, too, there was a time in some parts of the grain belt when it was just as cheap to burn corn as it was to buy coal or wood. Grain has gone up in price, and in feeding grain today it must be fed only to pure-bred stock, and the eggs sold at the very highest prices obtainable, if we are to make a profit from poultry.

When enough organizations are formed it is possible to secure as a manager an expert salesman, who will handle all of the products. But it is possible to form these organizations even in a small way and at least double the net profit from eggs and poultry.

There are different methods of handling this work, and after the various plans are given you, it is possible to select the plan that best suits your conditions.

Members must agree to live up to a certain set of rules, which must be rigid in their requirements. It is mighty easy to lose your trade, and it is far easier to get a new customer than to get back one that is dissatisfied. We think that it is necessary that every egg be candled before it leaves the farm. Under the present methods the farms have a man in the city, hired for the purpose, who candles their eggs. Under the present system he pays the freight on the bad eggs hauled to market and for the dray that hauls the bad eggs to the garbage heap.

Prices on eggs are established very much like the prices for life insurance. They are based on the law of average. The insurance men calculate how many men have died each year for the ten years previous and from these tables make their rates.

The commission men base prices on the number of good eggs that reach the market. They know that last year a certain number of eggs that could not be used came to market in May, an increased number in June, still more in July and August, and prices must be based accordingly. So, after all, it is the farmer who must suffer from this negligence, not the commission men.

Your lesson on eggs should enable you to handle the eggs with care, and you already know how to candle eggs to select the bad eggs or those with blood clots. Make you a candling outfit, and if you are a leader in the organization of a home club, teach all of the members how to candle eggs, and see that each member does this with regularity. It will certainly save trouble. If you guess at the eggs you ship, some members will be careless and in spite of warning will use eggs that they should not ship and get the organization into trouble very quickly.

There is a lack of confidence of the city buyer in the farmer, because of the careless methods that are used on the great majority of farms throughout the whole United States, and you start your work, as a rule, against prejudice. Many buyers have the same distrust for the farmer as the farmer has for the commission man. The farmer, in most cases, never stops to consider that there are two sides to this question. He never stops to think just how many counterfeit eggs he places on the market and the methods which have to be used to protect the buying public from his bogus stuff. A man who knowingly sells counterfeit eggs is just as bad at heart as a man who passes a counterfeit dollar in a trading transaction.

There are two methods of detecting the member who is not particular in handling eggs and who is permitting inferior eggs to go to market. One is by using a stamp that will stamp the number of the member and the organization on the end of each egg. Another way is to use stickers to seal up the box, on which are printed whatever matter is desired, so that the egg can be traced back to the member that sold it. The great benefit to be derived from this is that it throws a responsibility on each member and the guilty are culled out. This method forces inspection and it does seem that, knowing this, each member would realize the re-

sponsibility, and, even if they are indifferent as to their own welfare, would be careful for the sake of their neighbors, who stand a chance to lose a good trade and be boycotted on account of the carelessness of some one member.



Fig. 4. Various stamps for putting numbers on eggs. The Bingo is one of the best for the purpose. These can be purchased from the "American" Poultry Supply Company of Kansas City.

By this method the eggs are candled, graded and sealed right on the farm, and the responsibility is placed on the individual.

There are various methods of organization. If you are desirous of organizing a circle in your own community, talk up the work with a few of your neighbors and show them the advantages of such an organization. Get in touch with the markets that will handle your output so that you will have something definite to place before the meeting at which organization is to be discussed. We believe that it is better to ask only a few people whom you know can be absolutely depended upon. Too many people are willing to hop right in and if they do not see a great big advantage right in the first shipment or two, they are ready to quit and say, "I told you so." Beware of this type and get people who have staying qualities and who are willing to go ahead and work the plan out until you know definitely what there is to it. To you it will be an untried proposition, and you will have much to learn. Ask the dealer to whom you send your eggs, when the first shipment is made, to criticise the shipment severely and let you know just where and in what way you can improve same. One of the greatest drawbacks in handling farmers in this way, right at first, is that so many have mongrel fowls that do not produce uniform eggs. It would be well to begin to agitate the improvement of the flocks right from the very start.

You can address the audience briefly, telling them just how advantageous such a system would be, and then throw the matter open to discussion. A vote should then be taken, and in this way you could find if enough people are interested to form such an organization.

Next, elect your officers and discuss the best method of handling these eggs. In most cases, a receiver must be appointed. If no member is conveniently situated to handle the eggs and look after the shipment the local merchant will have to be depended on to do this part of the work. Thirty cents a case is a reasonable amount to give someone to handle the eggs.

If the merchant or the member who receives the eggs does not desire to pay until returns are made, which will generally be necessary, it would

be well to use a duplicate book such as merchants often use. This should contain two sheets of different colors, white and pink can be used, or any two colors which you want. A carbon is necessary, so that both copies are made at one time. The receiver gives the white sheet, showing the date and the number of eggs brought, to the member. The receiver can keep the other copy for his own files, to guide him in making the payment. The member brings these tickets at the end of each month and a settlement is made just as soon as the books are balanced and it is found just how much has been received for all eggs sold.

A membership fee should be collected in order to buy supplies. The individual cartons must be purchased, stamps and a number of egg cases must be acquired. After the organization is well started and success is assured it would pay to buy in quantities. This would be quite a saving. We suggest that the membership fee be not more than a dollar, and if money is needed for various expenses each individual member should be assessed.

A board of directors of five members should be elected at this meeting. A president, vice-president and secretary can be selected at the first meeting of the board.

The tendency of the times is toward forming new organizations rather than using organizations already in existence. In many communities it is possible to co-operate with some organization already in existence. Home makers' clubs are being organized in many communities throughout the country. Many times this work could be handled by this organization, and at least one week each month be given to the study of poultry. It would give variety to the routine work of this organization and help to increase the earning power of the members.

It is often possible to co-operate with a creamery organization and have the eggs handled through the creamery. The wagons that collect the cream can collect the eggs and there would be very little increase in the expense of handling the eggs.

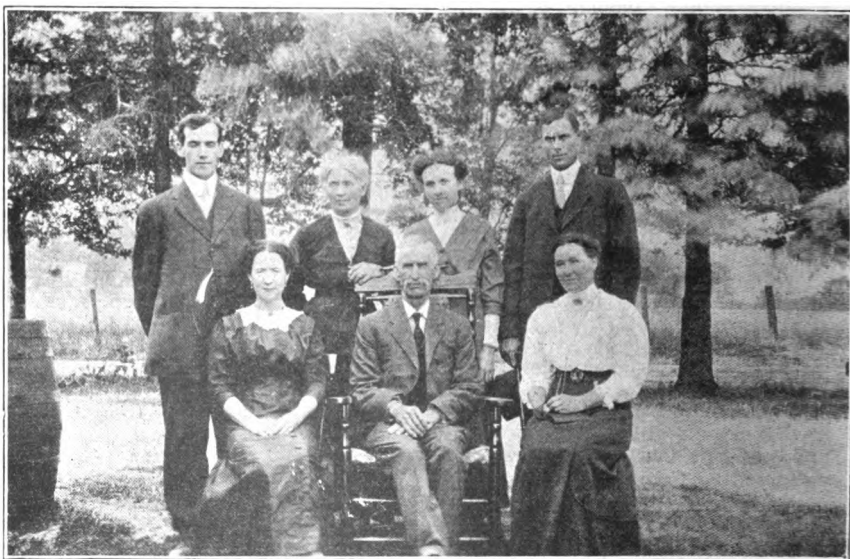


Fig. 5. Officers of a Canadian co-operative egg circle.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of the manager, as much depends upon his hustling qualities in securing a trade and in encouraging each member to come across with a high-grade product. The board will largely be responsible for the membership and should always be careful of the type of people taken in.

Some folks are a little greedy and want all the benefits that accrue from organization, but are willing to make none of the sacrifices in order to build up and keep the trade.

It is possible to make the pay of the manager depend on the number of eggs handled and the price received above market quotations, so that there will be an incentive to him to increase both the business and the price.

There is no country in the world where the business men are better organized for the carrying-on of business. By centralization of capital, big corporations have been formed, which, regardless of some of the abuses that have arisen, are the most efficient in the world. There has been a great struggle to get the farmers of the country to realize the great benefits of closer co-operation. Many organizations have been formed with a view of bettering rural conditions by increasing the selling power of various farm products. Many have failed, yet we have fine examples of organizations that have revolutionized many industries. Notable among these organizations is the Fruit Growers Exchange of California. By thorough organization and the employment of expert managers that enables them to compete with other organizations that use the selling methods of big businesses they have made fruit growing profitable. Such organizations use a great amount of space in advertising their products and by having attractive brands, they increase the use of fruits and are enabled, by better selling methods, to eliminate waste and, by proper grading and packing, manage to sell all of their fruit that is at all salable.

The work of organizing individual associations for the marketing of poultry products is in progress in a few States. The aim of the organizers in every State should be to form a large number of Egg Circles, adopt a brand that will insure uniformity and federate all of the circles into one State-wide organization. It is possible to form district organizations, which can handle the problems of the organizations of the district, and they in turn can have a state-wide federation and control the marketing policies for the State organization. This is the method that is used in the Citrus organizations of California, and it is also in use in old countries where the organization work has reached its highest development.

A state-wide organization is made up of the local associations and should have as its chief aim co-operation. They unite with a common agreement as to policies. As a rule, it is better in forming such organizations not to make the stock feature too prominent. They may even be formed without capital stock and the organization supported by dues from each organization; or, the expenses of the organization can be raised by charging a percentage on all produce handled, which can go into a common fund and if the money assessed is more than enough to pay expenses it can be passed to a surplus account such as every organization needs.

The people of our country have a great advantage over foreign countries on account of the large amount of money being spent by our government for the welfare of the farming class. If the proper interest is displayed in this organization work, and if communities petition the agricultural department at Washington, expert help will be given. In many States marketing experts are sent out, also, to aid in organizing and teaching proper methods of handling the products that are for sale. We are dealing more especially with eggs and poultry but such organizations can handle other farm products when they have once thoroughly organized and know the markets, but it is better just at first to confine efforts to poultry and eggs.

This work becomes a very strong educational factor, and when once the farmers of this country realize that they can get what poultry and eggs are worth there will be a greater interest in production. In some of the organization work that is being done at this time they do not find that it pays to keep up co-operative marketing during the season of scarcity. It will not take long to convince farmers that it will pay to feed and breed right in order to keep up a year round trade.

Fancy hennery white eggs or fancy hennery browns can be produced

in other sections than the East, and if eggs can be handled in sufficient numbers and marketed often enough they will command premium prices even in the Western markets.

That farm life may be made more attractive there is great need for an increase in the farm income. The quickest possible way to bring about such a result is to increase the selling price of country produce.

You can talk all you please about the middle man, but there is little doubt that he is needed so long as farmers persist in their careless methods of handling country produce. He dumps his eggs on the market and later, after they have passed through many hands and have been candled and graded, they are sold. Farmers' eggs are not in shape to be sold on the market, as they are too untrustworthy. The farmer has to pay the man in the city who grades and candles the eggs and places them in shape to go to the retail trade.

The only way we know of to bring about a change in the present methods and aid communities in getting decent prices is to grade and candle these eggs at home, and if you are not running a large commercial plant, group your eggs with those of your neighbor and find a market that will pay you for eggs on a quality basis.

Most of you know too well the present manner of handling eggs to repeat it here. If we wait until the country merchant improves the price on our poultry products it will be a long time before we can realize bigger profits. His policy is short sighted. If the price of eggs can be increased and the farmers make more money out of their produce he will be benefited, for production will increase and there will be more money to spend. Everybody should share in this general prosperity.

One of the large Minnesota creameries has given a striking illustration of just what it means for the farmers in the northwest to handle their eggs properly and sell them by proper methods. The merchants at first thought that it would injure their trade, but soon found that they were rid of the troublesome job of having to handle the eggs and that by this method of selling them, by proper grading and all being sold by one organization, better prices were obtained and the community became more prosperous.

The merchants of most any place will at first have the same feeling that the merchants of Minnesota had, but when they see the benefits to be derived from the improved methods their opposition will soon cease. He refuses to buy eggs loss-off because it takes time to candle, and in many cases he hates to offend his customer by telling him that his eggs are not up to standard. The farmer must take the first steps to improve his own condition, and we are hoping that many of you will aid in the work of organization so that the industry will get the impetus that will come from receiving better prices.

During the spring when eggs are plentiful and are being handled often there is not much premium price. The eggs are being handled more rapidly and the climatic conditions are such that the eggs do not deteriorate so rapidly. The wide margin comes during the hot season, when the losses are so great on account of careless handling of the eggs.

The Danish Farmers and Co-operative Egg Export Association was organized in 1895, and in 1909 it included five hundred egg collecting circles with a membership of 43,000 farmers. The farmers have a big central office in Copenhagen and have a number of packing plants located in large cities where eggs are stored when the supply is more than the trade handles. The Danes have methods different from our cold storage. They use large vats which hold a solution that preserves the eggs. This is a secret of their organization and it is not possible to obtain it. In their report of 1910 they showed sales of \$1,080,000. They also sell dressed poultry. The object of these organizations is to protect the Danish farmer and give him prestige by the use of a trade mark, and by finding him the best markets and generally reducing the cost of handling poultry products. These organizations ship large quantities of eggs to other countries, and their organization has recognition as the largest co-operative organization in the world which devotes its efforts exclusively to the handling of poultry products.

Professional poultrymen everywhere should get behind this work and help to form a general federation of Egg Circles in each state, that the present system in vogue may be abolished forever.

Forms A, B, and C should be numbered in triplicate. Form A (original) should be printed on white paper, Form B (duplicate) and Form C (triplicate) on paper of different tints, preferably light bond, and bound in books of 25 numbers to the book. Forms B and C should be perforated.

The collector enters the total number of eggs received from a member in the spaces provided on Form A, using carbon sheets so that the date, member's name, circle number, and number of dozen eggs collected are given on all three forms. The collectors, at the time of collection, deliver Form C to the member, which is a receipt for the number of eggs delivered to the collector.

As the eggs are candled and graded the number of dozens of each grade is placed upon Form A by the grader, the same information being shown on the carbon, Form B. This then gives the member the proper credit for the number of dozens of each grade delivered.

Settlement is made for each pool or delivery, which in most cases will be covered by one receipt for each member. As returns for the shipment are received the amount due each member will be carried out in the price and total columns of Forms A and B. Check is then drawn for the amount due and forwarded to the member with Form B, which gives a statement of returns and a duplicate of the receipt which the member holds with the additional information of the grading and amount received for each grade. Form A remains in the book and is kept on file in the office, to serve as a permanent record of settlements with the producer.

(Form A)

No\_\_\_\_\_

----- ARCOLA EGG CIRCLE, Arcola, Mo. -----

**(Office Copy of Member's Receipt.)**

Date, \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

Received of \_\_\_\_\_ Circle No. \_\_\_\_\_ the following:

No.	Price	Total
-----	-------	-------

Paid by Check No\_\_\_\_\_

Checked by\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Collector\_\_\_\_\_

(Form B)

No.-----

**ARCOLA EGG CIRCLE Arcola, Mo.**

**Statement of Returns and Copy of Member's Receipt**

Date Collected-----19-----

Mr.----- Circle No.-----, the enclosed Check is in payment for the following:

	No.	Price	Total
Less -----			
Total of Check -----			

Checked by -----

Collector -----

Manager -----

(Form C)

No.-----

**ARCOLA EGG CIRCLE, Arcola, Mo.**

**Member's Receipt.**

Date-----19-----

Received of----- Circle No.----- the following:

Collector-----

To Member: Keep this Receipt and compare with monthly statement sent you by Circle office.



Egg circles should use Standard Egg Cases or Special Cases for assembling the eggs at one central point. Also have a special Trade Mark or Brand for all eggs marketed by your Association.



# Poultry Producer's Association Kansas City, Mo.

## RECEIVING REPORT

Date <u>9/19/21</u>		Name <u>John Smith, Kansas City, Mo.</u>	
Debits		Credits	
		DOZ.	PRICE
HANDLING	30	SELECTS	24 0
CRATES	30	No. 1	5 8
EXPRESS	51	No. 2	— 4
POSTAGE		DIRTY	0 0
		CRACKED	0 0
		BROKEN	0 0
TOTAL	\$1.11	TOTAL	30 —
LOT No. # <u>731</u>			14 61
GRADED BY <u>E. S.</u>			1.11
			\$13.50
AMOUNT ADVANCED BY ASSOCIATION			

The above is the style of report used by the Poultry Producers' Association of Kansas City, Mo. This shows the name of the shipper of one case of 30 dozen eggs. One cent per dozen was deducted for the handling and grading. Thirty cents for the new crate into which the eggs were transferred, and 51 cents paid out for express, making a total deduction of \$1.11. In this case there were 24 dozen select eggs which sold for 50 cents per dozen. Five dozen and eight eggs, grading No. 1, which sold for 44 cents per dozen. There were four eggs which graded No. 2 and sold for 37 cents per dozen. The slip shows who graded the eggs. A copy of this slip and record is kept in the main office and a copy sent to the shipper with his check for \$13.50. This is a very good form for co-operative marketing associations.

## CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE EGG CIRCLES

Canada has made more progress in solving marketing problems and in organizing Co-operative Egg Circles than any other section of North America. This is partly because of government aid in this direction. This work has been under the direct supervision of Prof. W. A. Brown and he makes the following valuable suggestion:

"A Co-Operative Egg Circle is an association organized among farmers for the purpose of marketing eggs frequently and regularly through a common medium. The object is to improve the quality of eggs as they leave the farm, and to place them in the hands of the consumer with the least possible delay and in the best possible condition.

"It has been estimated that Canadian farmers lose between five and six million dollars annually, as a result of carelessness in handling and marketing eggs. The practice of simply using eggs as a medium of exchange for goods at the local store and of estimating their value by number rather than by quality, has not been conducive to the marketing of a high-class article.

"Some years ago when eggs were worth only one-half or one-third as much per dozen to the farmer as they are today there may have been some excuse for the above system, but today when they represent a big item in the annual receipts from the farm, it is time that an improved method of collection and marketing was adopted.

"It is a well known fact that in our large consuming centers there is an ever growing trade that will pay a decided premium for new-laid eggs of uniform quality. The producer or farmer located near these centers is often able, by personal canvass or by taking advantage of the local market, to obtain the price ordinarily paid by the consumer, but the farmer living at a distance has not this opportunity. The latter has not, usually, a sufficient quantity of eggs nor is his supply constant enough to warrant him going to the trouble and expense of making special shipments.

"A Co-Operative Egg Circle overcomes this difficulty, and obtains for the farmer living at a distance approximately the same premium, less the necessary transportation charges, that the nearby farmer can secure. The eggs are collected at regular and frequent intervals and the association secures the advantages of cheaper transportation through larger quantities of eggs being shipped at one time. The members also derive benefit from the expert salesmanship of a good manager.

"An important phase of the work is the fact that, at the time of joining the association, each member agrees to stamp his eggs with a given number designated by the board of directors. This is done so that the eggs may be identified when graded and payment made according to quality. The stamp also serves as a means whereby the consumer may be able to identify circle eggs when displayed among others.

## THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM ORGANIZATION

The co-operative marketing of eggs is a strictly business proposition, and the opportunity offered for increased financial gain is undoubtedly the chief incentive to encourage farmers and others to become members.

There is no fixed or recognized premium on new-laid eggs. It depends upon the supply and demand and varies according to the season. In the late summer, fall and winter months the premium should reach its highest point, but in the spring when eggs are being rushed forward with all possible speed, and reach the consumer in much better condition than at other seasons of the year, the premium on circle eggs is not so great. In other words, as the quality of ordinary farm eggs becomes more uncertain the premium placed on new-laid circle eggs increases. It is possible that during the spring of the year prices obtainable by circle members may not greatly exceed those paid by the local store, but for the eggs produced in the months of December and January the premium may amount to as much as 15 cents per dozen. For the eggs produced in the month of December last year, the majority of circles in Ontario and Quebec received from 45 to 55 cents per dozen.

The egg circle movement is of great benefit to the community in the influence it has upon the production of eggs when they are most expen-

sive. It requires patience, skill, good stock and good management to secure eggs in the winter months. Not many farmers have had in the past, however, the incentive to bestir themselves in this direction. But when prices aggregating 50 cents per dozen are obtainable, it places a different aspect on the subject. The result has been that where egg circles have been organized many farmers, who never before paid much attention to their poultry, by giving to their hens the same generous, systematic feeding and treatment given to the other classes of farm stock, have been able to secure a supply of eggs, that in the course of the winter season has amounted to a considerable sum.

Co-operation in the marketing of eggs and poultry has lifted poultry husbandry to a higher plane in the consideration of the farmer. Many farmers in the past have not thought hens were worth bothering about. But when a laying flock assumes the position of being one of the best revenue producers of the farm, it is viewed in a new light. The farmer naturally turns his attention to better poultry, improved methods of housing, more generous and systematic feeding, and becomes much more receptive to all reforms that will tend to improve the production of his flock.

### METHODS OF ORGANIZATION

It is customary in districts where considerable interest has been expressed in the co-operative marketing of eggs for a public meeting to be held and the whole matter thoroughly discussed. The general plan followed in such a meeting is to have someone, who is familiar with the subject, give a brief address. The meeting is then thrown open for a general discussion and after all who desire to express their views have spoken, a vote is taken as to whether those present consider a co-operative egg circle a practicable undertaking for that district.

Should the vote be in the affirmative, the first step is the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of a board of directors. The constitution and by-laws used by a number of the circles are given herein. In choosing the board of directors it is customary to select individuals from representative sections of the district surrounding the central shipping point.

It will be noticed that the amount of the membership fee is left blank in the constitution submitted. This should be decided upon at the organization meeting. The amount varies from 25c to \$1, depending upon the approximate amount of expense the circle expects to incur at the outset. Twenty-five cents will cover the cost of the stamp and pad, but experience has shown that whenever possible it is well to charge more, owing to other incidental expenses that are bound to arise.

According to the constitution the president and secretary are chosen from the members of the board of directors at the first board meeting following the organization meeting. It is well, therefore, that the board of directors plan to meet as soon as possible. Sometimes this meeting can be arranged immediately following the organization meeting.

In some instances where the egg circle is organized in conjunction with a co-operative creamery, cheese factory, farmers' club, or other association, the board of directors already appointed acts for the egg circle as well. Sometimes, when linked up with other co-operative associations of this kind, the matter of financing the undertaking at the outset is greatly expedited, for the association already having funds of its own, is able to purchase a fuller and more complete equipment of egg cases, candling apparatus and other things that may be deemed necessary. Then, again, when a cream gathering wagon or wagons collecting milk for cheese factories are already covering certain routes, they may be utilized for the collection of eggs as well.

While the directors can do much in the way of interesting new members and in keeping a general supervision over the work of the whole circle, their most important work is in the appointment of a competent manager. The success of the circle depends to a very great extent upon the energy, ability and honesty of the manager employed. He is the person who comes most frequently into contact with the members, and upon his business ability and his shrewdness in selling the eggs to the

best possible advantage depends entirely the financial returns made to the members. The constitution provides for the payment of the manager on a salary or commission basis, according to the agreement made with the board of directors. The commission basis is usually adopted, and ranges from one-half to two cents per dozen, depending upon the quantity of eggs offered and the amount of work done by the manager. It has been suggested, however, that the most desirable arrangement would be a sliding scale of payment, according to the quantity of eggs available and the relative prices obtainable at the different seasons of the year. It is claimed that such an arrangement would not only act as an incentive to the manager to secure more eggs but, also, that in his endeavor to secure the highest possible price, he would be more exacting as to the quality of the eggs furnished.

Sometimes it may be difficult for a board of directors to secure a suitable manager, that is, a man who not only has the necessary business ability but who also knows the egg trade, and is capable of candling and grading the eggs received. In several instances this difficulty has been solved by the board of directors calling for tenders for the position of manager for the circle.

### DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION

In most circles the eggs from each farm are collected at stated intervals by the manager; in others the members deliver the eggs at some central point, such as a creamery, cheese factory, store or house, from which the manager makes the shipment.

Payment for the eggs is usually made one week in arrears at the price prevailing at the time of collection. The delay of one week, or at the least until the next collection, is necessary so that the eggs may be graded; the bad, the dirty and the small eggs removed and deductions made accordingly. When the circles ship to a wholesale produce firm, the firm is usually willing to supply the circle with cases, but when the circle contemplates shipping to the retail trade, it is usually necessary for them to purchase their own cases and fillers.

The stamps suitable for marking eggs must be specially designed in order that a clear imprint may be secured on the rounded surface of the egg. The die itself usually consists of a double lined circle with appropriate wording, the number of the circle and the number of the member being clearly inscribed within.

The die should be made sufficiently flexible so that when brought into contact with the shell, it will touch all parts at the same time. If the manufacturer has taken the precaution to insert a hollow rubber cushion at least one-quarter of an inch in thickness between the die and the wooden handle the clearness of the imprint will be greatly enhanced.

Some circles in order to properly establish their eggs in a select trade, use the one dozen size carton, on which suitable printing and advertising matter is displayed. Some use a small stamp on their eggs. This is a custom similar to that followed by some of the larger wholesale and retail firms, who from experience have learned that the greatest amount of money to be made in the produce business is the establishment of some special recognized brand of goods.

The one dozen "two by six" carton costs less than one cent when purchased in quantities. It fits conveniently into the average thirty dozen case and forms a very convenient package in which the consumer may carry home a dozen eggs. The consumer, having once proven to his own satisfaction that eggs of this brand are good, naturally inquires for them again. In other words, eggs of quality well established are in themselves the best advertisement for future sale and delivery. One well known firm in a large city advertises regularly in the daily papers a list of the best retail stores at which eggs of their brand may be secured.

The question of financing the purchase of cartons and other items is sometimes a rather difficult problem for an association to solve. The membership fee should be large enough to cover the cost of stamps and pads and other incidental items at the outset and leave a small surplus

in the treasury. Often small amounts remain over from the receipts of shipments after the manager has deducted his commission, paid transportation charges and made the most equitable division of the returns possible among the members. This is placed to the credit of the association. Should the amount then not be sufficient and should direct cash contributions not be desirable, it has been suggested that the board of directors be given power to levy upon each member a tax of one-half or one dozen eggs per month at certain times in the year, it being understood that the proceeds from the sales are to be credited to the capital account of the association.

### **Proposed Constitution and By-Laws of Canadian Egg Circles**

Name-----Egg Circle No-----

Place-----Adopted -----

Province -----

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **Name**

1. The name of this association shall be the-----  
-----Egg Marketing Association

#### **Objects**

2. The objects of the association shall be the increasing of profits to poultry raisers by co-operation. This association shall seek to attain this object by—

- (a) Marketing eggs of the best possible quality, and
- (b) Selling the eggs delivered by the members at the highest possible prices.

#### **Membership**

3. Membership can be obtained by all poultry keepers living in the vicinity of-----upon payment of an entrance fee of-----

#### **Dues**

4. The annual dues of the association shall be-----and shall become due and payable on the first day of January of each and every year.

#### **Officers**

5. The officers shall consist of a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer and four directors.

6. The president and vice-president and secretary-treasurer shall be chosen by the directors from among themselves at the first board meeting after the annual meeting.

7. The directors may select three of their number to act as an executive committee (the president to serve as chairman) to have general charge of the affairs of the association.

8. At the annual meeting two auditors shall be elected.

9. The board of directors shall employ a business manager. The business manager shall not be a member of the board of directors.

#### **Duties of Officers**

10. The president shall preside at all meetings. He shall call meetings of the board and members when necessary and shall advise with and render such assistance to the manager as may be in his power. In his absence the vice-president shall have and exercise all rights and powers of the president.

11. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings and of all receipts and disbursements and report the condition of the finances annually or as often as the directors shall desire. The secretary may, on approval of the board of directors, employ an assistant to help him in his work.

12. When a vacancy shall occur through any cause in any of the offices established by the constitution and by-laws of the association, it shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting of the board of directors.

13. Four members of the board of directors present and voting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **Meetings**

14. The annual meeting of the association shall be held in the month of January of each year.

15. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given each member by the secretary not less than one week previous to the date of this meeting.

16. Special meetings may be held at any time upon call of the president by written notice mailed to each member five days before the meeting. Special meetings shall be called by the president upon request in writing by any ten members.

17. Election shall be by ballot, conducted by two scrutineers appointed by the chairman.

18. The books of the association shall be audited each year before the date of the annual meeting.

#### **Amendments**

19. This constitution or any part thereof may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

#### **BY-LAWS**

1. The manager shall have charge of the collection and sale of all eggs, and shall apportion the returns among the members according to the quantity and quality received. He shall be responsible at all times to the board of directors.

2. The remuneration of the manager shall from time to time be fixed by the board of directors, and may be by way of salary or commission.

3. - Members of the association are subjected to the following regulations:

(a) They must deliver all eggs not to be used for their own house-keeping or breeding purposes at a time and place determined by the board of directors. All eggs must be unbroken, clean, of good size and not more than one week old.

(b) Before being delivered all eggs must be stamped at the broad end with the stamp supplied by the board of directors. The stamp is the property of the association and must be returned to the manager when membership ceases.

(c) No member shall be permitted to dispose of eggs, through the association, from hens other than his own.

(d) No member shall be permitted to loan or borrow stamps belonging to the association.

(e) Poultry houses must be kept clean and sanitary.

(f) No nest eggs that will, in any way, taint the new-laid eggs may be used.

(g) Eggs must be gathered twice a day and kept in a cool room, free from draught, dampness and foul odors, and, if possible, in a temperature not exceeding 60 degrees.

4. In case the members do not observe the rules of the association, a system of fines may be adopted and enforced by the directors.

5. These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.



Fig. 6. Covered wagon used to collect eggs from Canadian organizations.

### ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD ISSUE STAMPS

We are very much interested in the proposed plan to establish a State brand for Missouri produced eggs. As long as each club uses its own method and brand, or standard, we will not be able to make much headway. I have had numerous requests from people in various parts of the State for information concerning marketing.

The Missouri Poultry Association should issue and control stamps which should be put on as a seal to every carton. There would be some little expense to meet this, and to offset it each club formed might be required to pay a small sum, according to the members it has or according to the number of eggs marketed. The idea for the producer having a brand is all right for the large producers, but what good can it do the producers who have only a few dozen eggs a week? And this type of producer is vastly in the majority.

I see no reason why a State organization could not be perfected and a State brand and standard obtained. Then each locality could organize its clubs and eggs could be shipped to one central market and then on to the consumer in the original cartons. The cartons could all carry the same advertising and each carton would help to advertise the project. These numerous rivulets would make quite a stream of good eggs and in a short time this brand would be in demand at prices far above that of the unknown egg.

The requirements of membership in some Missouri Egg Marketing Clubs are as follows:

First—The eggs must be infertile. Remove the male birds from the flock immediately after the breeding season and market no fertile eggs.

Second—The eggs should be gathered daily so that none remain in the nests over night.

Third—Only nest eggs such as gypsum or china should be used.

Fourth—Do not sell eggs which come from stolen nests.

Fifth—Avoid dirty eggs by using clean quarters. Dirt may be removed with a damp cloth, but eggs should not be washed.

Sixth—Sort out exceedingly large or small eggs.

Seventh—Market only eggs of standard size, 24 ounces or more to the dozen.

## STORE EGGS IN COOL PLACE

Eighth—Store eggs in cool, clean, well-ventilated places, and away from flies. Protect them from extremes of heat and cold when enroute to market.

Ninth—Eggs are to be packed in Farm Bureau cartons and sealed on the farm. All cartons must be dated. This will protect you from the carelessness of someone else.

Tenth—Market eggs at regular intervals, two or three times a week.

The object of the organization is to improve the quality of eggs leaving the farms of this club and from the neighborhood and county, to encourage proper methods of handling of eggs on the farm, so as to insure their reaching the market in satisfactory condition with a minimum of loss, by improving the quality to tend to increase the price paid for eggs, and in this way make poultry keeping more profitable. Statistics show that great losses occur relative to marketing eggs during the summer months. Conservative estimates place the loss at nearly one-fifth the entire product leaving the farm. Investigation has also shown that a large percentage of this loss occurs on the farm, and also that this loss is borne quite largely by the producer. These losses can be prevented and if they are prevented there is no reason why the farmer cannot realize a greater price for his eggs.

This market is ours as long as we can meet its requirements. Hence, it is up to us to be careful, and any little thing we can do to make our produce better or more attractive is desired.

The New Jersey plan for co-operative marketing is a still bigger step than the egg circle. By having all of the organizations federated the chances for better prices are more favorable, and it is possible to reduce the price of handling the eggs. By having an agent in one of the large cities, who can look personally after sales, and by dividing the expense it would be possible to greatly reduce the cost of handling the eggs and insure good prices. We publish the following by permission of Prof. Harry Lewis:

## PURPOSES AND SCOPE

We should not be led astray into thinking that although our plan may ultimately include the marketing of all New Jersey produced eggs that now go through wholesalers' hands in large cities, this plan will have but little effect upon the market price of the general supply. We should remember that although our State is known as a poultry State, we supply New York City with only one or two per cent of its total receipts. On the other hand, our eggs are in a small class, and if only first-class, fresh-laid eggs are considered, New Jersey is a large factor. Especially is this true of white-shelled eggs. The purpose of this plan and the need of the average poultry raiser in the State, as the committee understands conditions, is a more efficient method of supplying particular people in large cities with the finest quality eggs which can be produced. This includes the elimination of loss to a large degree, from improper methods, little or no grading, and wholly unsatisfactory systems of distribution. Surely the New Jersey Poultrymen do not want to compete with the western producer in the production and selling of only quality eggs. Because of our nearness to the greatest market section in the country we have certain advantages which remain for us to profit by if we will. Are we going to neglect our birthright by continuing our slipshod methods of marketing? The demand in New York City, which we should remember is the greatest egg market in the world, is for food products of superior quality and appearance. We can furnish them the best grade of eggs at less cost and greater profit to ourselves than can poultry raisers of any other district. We can, but in many cases we do not. The average producer is as ignorant of market conditions as the average market man in a large city is of any line of farming. We are producing quantities of eggs of the quality in such demand, but they never realize what they should do for us because of our inefficient methods of marketing. The persons who demand this high class of products not only ask for freshness, quality and appearance, but they desire that there will never by any chance be a "mistake." They want to feel sure that the supply



is of sufficient volume to furnish them at all times. If any one of these factors is lacking this class of trade is diverted. The committee believes that only through co-operative efforts of many careful producers can this trade be permanently secured and held. The possibilities of this plan are almost unlimited. The task at hand is to get it established. It is one step, and we believe an important one, in the work which the many poultry organizations, with the aid of the State and Federal Departments, are striving to accomplish, namely, to develop the poultry industry into a profitable, legitimate business, capable of returning fair profits to those interested in it and who are willing to give it close study and well directed management.

### OUTLINE OF PLAN

The plan includes the selection of reliable, experienced dealers in the large cities to act as our agents. We are starting with one in New York City. Instead of starting under a handicap by setting up a new store with inexperienced operators, as has often been tried, we recognize that the selling end of the business is intricate, that there are many conditions which exert a vital influence upon the success or failure of such an enterprise that only experienced men can successfully deal with.

All members of local associations which belong to the Federation are privileged to send their eggs to this agent. They will be carefully graded and packed by the agent. This insures uniformity in the product as it reaches the trade, and does away with all detail work which some producers have been forced to take up.

The agent will carry on the business of selling in his own way, but under the supervision and with the full co-operation of the Federation.

Returns will be made on the day of sale and all possible energy will be used to move the eggs rapidly.

Arrangements can be made by individual shippers to have a part or all of their eggs stored during seasons of heavy production and consequent low prices. The storing facilities will be of the best and our agent is well acquainted with this end of the business.

### REQUIREMENTS TO SHIP

The only requirements made of those who desire to take advantage or who wish to support this project are: Firstly, they must be members in good standing of a society belonging to the Federation of Poultry Association; and, secondly, that they will so manage and care for their flock that only eggs of high quality and flavor will be produced.

The secretary of any local association can secure through the committee "shippers' numbers." Shipping tags will be forwarded to the shippers to use on each shipment. This tag, marked with a shipper's number, insures recognition of the shipment by the agent and the shipper will be credited accordingly.

Small eggs, or those of poor shape, etc., will be disposed of by the agent through suitable channels, but shippers should realize that this association is endeavoring to establish a reputation for excellence and that high-grade goods are going to receive special attention.

Upon complaint to the committee by the agent a shipper's number can be cancelled, if upon investigation such action seems to be to the best interest of the association. It sometimes happens that eggs from a flock will be of poor flavor on account of unwise feeding or some other cause. This cancellation clause is inserted to protect the trade.

### DUTIES OF THE AGENT

The agent will receive all eggs from shippers bearing an authorized number. It is urged that where eggs are shipped by express that they be shipped collect. The agent will then pay the charges, deducting the same when returns are made. This sometimes facilitates the collection of damage charges, etc.

Each shipment will be graded and candled separately and the shipper given credit for the following grades: First whites and first browns, will be large, clean eggs of the highest quality. They must weigh twenty-

four ounces per dozen. The whites must have chalk-white shells and tinting or color will place them in the class of browns. In warm weather, eggs to come under these classes must be only a few days old. It will be found that conditions under which eggs are kept will have more influence in determining the quality than mere number of days. Seconds will include all small, shrunken and dirty eggs which may be received. Many times large numbers of small eggs are produced on the best farms from flocks of pullets. Good markets can be found for these in the large cities. Shrunken eggs are those in which the moisture has more or less evaporated. This condition is often found in eggs held for several days or more. It should be guarded against. When a small shipper is securing only a few eggs each day it may become impossible to fill a case, or even half a case, often enough to prevent this condition. This matter should be discussed by the local association with the idea that two or more raisers combine and ship together. In this way frequent shipments can be made, which is the only way to insure the best results in warm weather. Checks is a market term applied to all eggs cracked or broken.

Complete accounts must be kept by the agent, which will be open to the association's committee at all times. These accounts must include each sale, the purchaser's name, price paid, etc.

The agent will endeavor to develop a large trade for our best eggs packed in one-dozen cartons. Our New York agent is to put a special man on this work.

All eggs not sold in cartons will be sold in standard thirty-dozen cases.

### **DISTRIBUTING PACKAGES**

The association will supply the agent with suitable cartons and with labels to place upon the sides of cases containing our eggs. On the cartons and labels will be printed the statement that these eggs are produced on poultry plants managed along the most approved lines, and that every effort has been made to insure the high quality of the products. That the eggs are not only produced, but are graded, packed, sold and guaranteed by this association of several thousand actual producers. A small slip will be inclosed in all packages covering in some detail the purposes and aims of the association. Of late years there has been much agitation upon more direct dealings between producers and consumers. The time is now ripe to inaugurate such a plan as this. All eggs sold will go out under definite trade names (probably copyrighted). In this way a buyer can easily know how and where to secure similar goods again.

### **BUILDING UP TRADE**

This will be largely in the hands of the agent. However, every member should consider himself or herself responsible for advertising our goods. We are going into this project at the right season. Receipts will be small to begin with, but should increase to large quantities each spring. It might be well for the association to enter into a publicity campaign, if possible, and advertise the goods extensively. On the other hand, it may be better to work up the trade slowly and "feel our way along." Many co-operative projects have been started before and failed. Most of them have endeavored to start large.

Our best eggs, packed in cartons, should find a demand among retail stores dealing with particular buyers. Those sold in case lots will go to clubs, hotels, steamship lines, or other large consumers and retailers.

### **MAKING RETURNS**

This phase of the subject has caused the committee the greatest amount of work and is, perhaps, the most important part of the plan. We have long felt that the average producer was very ignorant of the conditions existing in the large markets. The more we become acquainted with the market conditions the more certain are we of this fact. Under recent conditions most commission dealers claim to handle eggs on a five per cent basis. There is much dissatisfaction concerning this method among producers. There seems to be a general feeling

among farmers that commission dealers are dishonest. There certainly is a lack of sympathy and co-operative spirit which is so important in efficient marketing and which should be extended to the consumers. We find that authorities agree with us in declaring that, as the business is carried on in New York City today, a five per cent commission does not allow the dealer a fair profit. It is doubtful if it covers expenses. This may explain much of the fault found with commission dealing. Under present conditions the shipper rarely feels that he is "on the inside" of transactions in which his goods are concerned. He can only take his returns and think that he is fortunate. The aid of the committee in determining upon the methods of making returns best suited to our plan has been to insure an open, straightforward plan in which any shipper can feel satisfied that he knows all there is to know. Because of the extra work involved in grading and packing, and because we have to insure this "one price and one commission" innovation, the percentage of commission allowed to the agent is double what has heretofore apparently been the case. We allow ten per cent to the shipper, and deduct an additional two per cent to cover the cost of cartons, labels, etc. This will make a total of twelve per cent to cover the cost of marketing. No doubt many will consider this almost prohibitive. In reply we can only say that we believe that this committee has conducted the most exhaustive investigation into this subject that has ever been made for such a purpose. It is our belief that it is no higher than the average commission charged in reality on average shipments by commission dealers and wholesalers. We do not believe that all commission men or wholesale dealers in eggs report receipts less than the prices actually received, but we do believe that producers are entitled to know just how their goods are sold and exact details connected with their disposal. Under present conditions such knowledge is almost impossible to get. More than that, if there is going to be any money made by holding the eggs for a day or two, by storing them for a longer or shorter period, or by handling them in any manner, we believe the producer is the party who should profit by it. It is a well known fact that larger profits are made by commission dealers in the fall, when prices are rising, than in the spring, when prices are going lower every day. This should not be so, and would not if the dealers acted purely as commission agents for their shippers. In the spring, when current receipts glut the market and the prices are lowering day by day, the dealers, in order to satisfy their shippers, often have to return the prices quoted on the day of arrival, even though the sales are not made for a day or two or until the price has fallen a cent or more per dozen. In extreme cases perhaps such conditions occur. In the fall, however, the losses of the spring are recovered—and who knows how much more? This plan does away with all such "queer transactions." Producers in the manufacturing business or in any other lines know who their goods are sold to, they know how much they are sold for, and they know how much it costs to sell their goods. In disposing of perishable stuffs produced on the farm and sold in distant markets definite prices cannot be agreed upon by both parties in any practical way. The place for the average producer is on the farm, producing. The selling end certainly needs a man acquainted with credit conditions, supply and demand, and a hundred other important details. The goods may change many degrees between the time they leave the producer and the time they reach the retailer, or consumer. It was this condition that undoubtedly led to the commission method of doing business. In its real, or should we say theoretical, form this method was ideal. The commission dealer received the goods, sold them for the highest price he could consistently charge, and returned that price to the shipper, less a percentage charge to reimburse him for legitimate expenses and allow him a fair profit. It was impossible that with the rapid growth of our large centers of population, and consequent greater distance established between the producer and the consumer, evils should not develop in this method. The very nature of the method almost invited deceit. The producer depended entirely upon the honesty of the dealer. The producer understood that the dealer was acting

purely as his agent. An illustration of how far the present condition of the commission business is removed from the ideal is seen by the action of many of the firms in New York City during past years. The New York State law-making bodies enacted laws requiring the registration and filing of a bond with an authorized party of all persons doing commission business. These laws further called for a more or less definite supervision of the business by the State. Many of the companies, previously engaged in the commission business, are now purchasing for themselves at their own prices the products from their shippers. In this way they go out of the commission business, and hence are "not hampered" by "foolish" laws. We believe that certain advantages, as already mentioned, will be received by shippers who take advantage of this co-operative plan and that the actual cost will be no higher, while the prices received for the eggs should be very satisfactory. Not only does this plan include a close supervision of all sales and business transactions, but, because of the immensity of the business we may build up, the agent must realize that his greatest gain lies with this plan of co-operation. It has always been recognized in the wholesale business that the large shipper received greater attention from the dealer than the smaller one. Therefore, co-operative associations should be the largest shippers in any market of eggs of similar quality.

### DUTIES OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Much of the success of this plan will be due to the hearty support of the officers and members of the various associations about the State.

The secretary of the local association must apply to the committee for "Shippers' numbers" in order to secure recognition by the agent for goods shipped by members. The secretary should use his best judgment in calling for numbers, as there may be cases where careless raisers, who are members, still persist in allowing their hens to consume food not consistent with the production of fine eggs.

The committee asks that the following facts be brought to the attention of each association by the secretary at a regular meeting:

**One.** Investigators in this and foreign countries, who have studied the problem of food stuff distribution and its relation to the high cost of living, agree that efficiency can be best secured through co-operative selling on the part of the producers and co-operative buying on the part of the consumers.

**Two.** Of the various methods of disposing of eggs practiced by New Jersey poultrymen most of them have serious disadvantages. Near-by markets are small and often very plentifully supplied. Only small producers can afford to keep up a retail trade. By sending eggs to dealers in distant large cities no assurance can be had that the returns are what they should be. Is there not a great need of a well perfected method of marketing, for raisers located in rural communities? Is there not room for improvement in prices received by all? Does not New York City, especially, afford a most promising market for superior eggs, packed and sold right? Have we not learned by the example of our enterprising friends in distant sections that co-operative marketing has great practical possibilities? Consider for example, the Southern California Fruit Growers Exchange, which handles seventy-five per cent of the orange crop in that State; the Texas Onion Growers' Association, which has made possible the development of that enormous industry during the past ten years; and the many apple growers' societies in western states. Consider the success of the farmers' organizations in this State, organized by the wide-awake potato growers and truck farmers in several southern counties. There is an unlimited demand for best quality eggs in New York. Is there any greater influence we can create to draw new poultrymen to the State and to assist us in building up profitable poultry farms than by establishing a successful marketing plan?

**Three.** No such extensive co-operative plan for the handling of eggs has ever been introduced or tried out in this country. Co-operation among the producers elsewhere has long been practiced and proven to be of great benefit to all.

**Four.** On account of the agitation and publicity given to the sub-

ject of co-operation during recent years, it would seem that now is an especially desirable time to take the initiative in this step and inaugurate a truly co-operative method of direct dealing from farm to consumer.

Five. Notwithstanding the failures of many previous co-operative efforts which have been tried out, this plan embraces certain factors that have been supported by commercial interests, this plan has been suggested, organized and adopted by a group of actual producers. In the past, many co-operative efforts have been supported by only a few shippers, necessitating an irregular supply of products, with great scarcity at certain seasons. Our plan embraces thousands of members, and because of this State-wide scope should include every one who produces eggs in large enough quantities to ship to the large markets.

Six. Finally, the committee desires to state that this plan of co-operative marketing is the result of the experience and study, not only of its members, but also of the best authorities upon this subject in the United States.

These are some of the facts that each association should bring to the attention of its members and urge that the plan be given the hearty support of all. It must be remembered that by far the greatest influence upon which the success or failure of this plan depends are those with which the plan comes in contact during its early life. The firm establishment of this method is the important thing and we hope that everyone will boost and that criticisms will be withheld until a thorough trial is given.

### POULTRY CLUB WORK

Much attention is being paid to the poultry club work in many states. A great number of poultry departments in our leading colleges have men who give their entire time to this line. There is no doubt but that it is an excellent plan for they are creating an interest in poultry among the young people, who in turn get the older people interested in better methods of poultry keeping. The general rule is to have each member of the club set twenty-five eggs under hens and keep accurate records. They are instructed as to the best methods of feeding and caring for the growing stock. They are asked to write essays on how they cared for their flocks and exhibit fowls at the fall shows that are nearest them.

The following season they are expected to put a pen of the birds that have been reared into a laying house and feed them throughout the winter and keep records. If the boys and girls learn these fundamental lessons well, by putting them into practice, they will be greatly benefited and will acquire an interest in the work that will increase as the years go by.

The prize money must be raised locally from enterprising citizens who are interested in the development of the community, and in the boys and girls learning lessons that will be useful to them later in life in increasing their earning power—whether they live in the small town, the city, or the country.

The Bureau of Animal Industry has issued a bulletin containing complete instructions, which you can write for if you are interested in the organization of poultry clubs among the boys and girls of your county. We suggest another very interesting line of work to be undertaken by the rural schools. Many communities are seeking to better their rural schools and make them more effective. They are becoming agencies for the training of boys and girls for rural life rather than for life in the cities. In many counties these schools could inaugurate egg contests. They could apply to breeders, who might be interested in the publicity that the contests would give to them, and ask that they allow the institution to feed and trap-nest a pen of hens for the winter, using their names as the owners of the birds. This would certainly create great interest in better feeding methods and better methods of breeding. An actual demonstration of proper care of fowls in each county community would certainly increase the interest in the poultry work. If the schools, too, were engaged in the marketing of eggs, thousands of dollars would be brought into the community as a result of such effort.

The contests could be carried on in connection with some cosmopoliti-

tan paper and the results published each month in the papers of the county. More than likely the leading poultry journal of the state in which the contest was being conducted would publish the report.

Such a plan would certainly carry the teaching of the Experiment stations direct to the people who need the instruction and create a great demand for better stock.

### **BENEFITS OF CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**

There are two or three districts in California where hundreds of people are making a living exclusively from the production of poultry and eggs. Especially is this true of the Petaluma, Los Angeles and Hayward districts. The same is true in the states of Oregon and Washington. There are men and women who have only two to five acres of land on which they keep 1,000 to 3,000 hens. Many of these people have bought and gradually improved their land, built comfortable homes, and accumulated some surplus cash, absolutely and solely from the sale of poultry and eggs. They devote all of their time to poultry, and they purchase all their feed. Such results have been made possible only because of their co-operative producers' organization.

In the Hayward district the producers organized such an association, a co-operative organization. They built one warehouse in which and through which to transact their business. The association buys feed and supplies in car load lots. By purchasing fencing material, incubators, equipment, baby chicks, feed or other supplies in large quantities, they can save freight and express and obtain the lowest prices. By selling their products co-operatively through their manager, they are able to furnish a uniform product of high grade and command the best prices. So successful has been their venture that the Hayward Producers' Association has just erected another very large warehouse. The organization seems to be very thrifty and beneficial to its members. It has a membership of several hundred, we understand.

### **THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION**

The largest and most successful organization of poultry producers that are known of is the Poultry Producers of Central California with their main offices at Petaluma and San Francisco. While I was in charge of the Live Stock Department at the World's Fair at San Francisco, I was invited to speak to the members of this organization at Petaluma and Hayward. It was a small, struggling organization at that time. I urged them to stick and co-operate, and the result has been that they now have an organization with three-fourths of a million capital on which to operate. They have turned the production of eggs and poultry in Central California from a "guess" to a sure thing and a profitable business for all producers who use correct methods. Their product is marketed for them by this Association and they are insured the highest prices. Their eggs top the New York and London markets. They have their own warehouses, collecting points and facilities for grading, handling, marketing or storing their eggs. It is only through co-operation that they have been able to do this. Their business has grown to such proportions that they keep a salesman in the best markets at different seasons of the year to dispose of their product to the best advantage.

Their work has been so noteworthy that I herewith give you their by-laws, sales agreement and complete working plan. It is worthy of your consideration if you ever expect to be associated with a co-operative association.

# **BY-LAWS OF THE POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, INC.**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Corporate Seal**

The Corporate Seal shall bear the inscription, "Poultry Producers of Central California, Inc., Incorporated October 31, 1916, California."

## **ARTICLE II**

(1) The affairs of this Corporation shall be managed by a Board of eleven (11) Directors. They shall be elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders, to serve for one year and until their successors shall be elected and qualify.

One Director shall be a poultry producer in the Sacramento Valley District, comprising the counties of Sacramento, Napa, Placer, Tehama, Butte, Solano and such other counties in the Sacramento Valley or adjacent thereto as may not be specifically included in either of the districts mentioned below.

One Director shall be a poultry producer in the San Joachin Valley District, comprising the counties of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare.

One Director shall be a poultry producer in the Santa Cruz District, comprising the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey and such other adjoining counties as may not be specifically included in some other district mentioned herein.

One Director shall be a poultry producer in the Alameda County District, comprising the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa.

One Director shall be a poultry producer in the Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties District, including San Benito County and the City and County of San Francisco.

Five Directors shall be poultry producers in the Sonoma County District, comprising the counties of Sonoma, Marin, Mendocino and Humboldt.

One Director shall be proposed by the Market Director of the State of California.

This Director proposed by the State Market Director shall represent all the districts above specified and conserve the general interests of all the stockholders of this Corporation.

An informal primary shall be held, as the Board of Directors may determine, to select a nominee for each such District. The said Market Director shall propose at least one name, to be placed in nomination by the Secretary. The Stockholders shall then cast their votes, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, giving proper care to the representation of each District, as well as to their general interests as stockholders. Qualifications of the Directors and the representation as to districts shall be subject to amendment only at a stockholders' meeting, held after special notice to all the stockholders.

(2) Six (6) Directors shall constitute a quorum of said Board and the affirmative vote of at least four (4) Directors shall be necessary to pass any resolution or authorize any corporate act.

(3) In addition to the powers by these By-Laws expressly conferred upon it, the Board may exercise such powers and do such lawful acts and things as the Statutes or the Articles of Incorporation of these By-Laws do not specifically require to be exercised or done by the stockholders.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Vacancies**

Vacancies in the Board shall be filled at a meeting of the Board by election by the remaining Directors. Those elected shall hold office until the election of their successors at an annual meeting of the stockholders.

## ARTICLE IV

### Powers of Directors

The Directors shall have power:

- (1) To call special meetings of the stockholders. They must call a meeting at any time upon the written request of the stockholders holding one-fifth of the issued capital stock of the Corporation;
- (2) To appoint and remove officers, general agents, agents and employees, contract for their employment, fix their duties and compensation and require from them security for faithful service;
- (3) To manage all of the business of the Corporation and make for it rules and regulations;
- (4) To incur indebtedness for the conduct of the business, the terms and accounts of which shall be entered on the minutes of the Board. The President or a Vice-President shall sign officially all written promises to pay debts, and the Secretary or Treasurer shall countersign the same;
- (5) To foster and encourage each to include owners of at least five thousand hens, the formation of local associations of poultry producers in each district, to aid in the general purposes for which the Corporation was organized.

## ARTICLE V

### Duties of Directors

The Board of Directors shall:

- (1) Cause to be kept a record of its meetings and of the proceedings of the stockholders; and cause a full statement to be made in writing at the regular annual meeting of the stockholders, showing in detail the assets and liabilities of the Corporation and generally the condition of its affairs;
- (2) Meet at least once a month at a time to be determined by the said Board; and each Director shall, for the expenses of attendance at each of such meetings, receive such sum as may be allowed by resolution of the Board, but as Director shall receive no salary or other compensation;
- (3) Declare dividends out of the surplus profits when such profits shall, in the opinion of the Directors, warrant the same;
- (4) Supervise all officers, agents and employees and see that their duties are properly performed;
- (5) Cause to be issued to stockholders certificates of stock for the amounts of their holdings.

## ARTICLE VI

### Officers

The officers shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary and a Depositary (which shall act as Treasurer), to be elected by and hold office at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. The compensation and tenure of office of all officers shall be fixed by said Board.

## ARTICLE VII

### President

The Board of Directors, at its first regular meeting, shall elect one of the Board as President; and if at any time the President is unable to act, the First Vice-President, or (if the First Vice-President shall at any time be unable to act), the Second Vice-President shall perform his duties; and if both the First and Second Vice-Presidents are unable to act, the Board shall appoint some other member thereof to his place.

The President—or, in his absence, the First Vice-President, or in his absence, the Second Vice-President, or, in his absence, the Director appointed as above provided, shall:

- (1) Preside over all meetings of the stockholders and Directors;
- (2) Sign all certificates of stock and all contracts and other in-



struments of writing which have been first approved by the Board of Directors;

(3) Call the Directors together whenever it is deemed necessary by him, and shall (subject to the advice of the Directors) have general direction of the affairs of the Corporation, and shall discharge such other duties as may be required by the By-Laws or by the Board of Directors;

(4) The President, or a Vice-President, or three of the Directors, may call special meetings of the Directors at any time, and notice shall be given of such called meetings by leaving a written or printed notice at the last-known place of business or of residence of each Director; or such special meetings may be held at any time by consent of all Directors in writing. Each Director must, at the first meeting after his election, cause his address to be entered in the minutes, to which address all notices may be directed until similar notice and entry of residence has by him been given in writing to the Secretary, who shall register the same. Such service of notice shall at the next meeting be entered on the minutes of the Corporation; and said minutes, upon being read and approved at subsequent meeting of the Board, shall be conclusive upon the question of service.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Secretary

The Secretary shall:

(1) Keep a record of the proceedings of meetings of the Board of Directors and of the stockholders;

(2) Keep the corporate seal and the book of blank certificates of stock, fill up and countersign all certificates and make the corresponding entries in the margin of such book, on such issuance; affix said seal to all papers requiring a seal;

(3) Keep a transfer book and a stock ledger in debit and credit form, showing the number of shares issued to and transferred by any stockholder and the dates of issuance and transfer;

(4) Keep proper account books, and discharge such other duties as pertain to his office and are prescribed by the Board of Directors;

(5) Serve all notices required, either by law or by the By-Laws of the Corporation; and, in case of his absence, inability, refusal or neglect so to do, then such notice may be served by any persons thereunto directed by the President or a Vice-President of the Corporation;

(6) Record and vote all proxies made out in his name as directed by the makers of the proxies.

The Board may appoint an Assistant Secretary and may delegate to him any or all of the duties or powers herein assigned to the Secretary.

## ARTICLE IX

### Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and keep all the funds of the Corporation and pay them out only on the check of the Corporation, signed as authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE X

### Executive Committee

(1) The Board of Directors shall have an Executive Committee of five (5) members, which shall meet as and when its members direct; said Committee shall have such powers and duties as may be delegated to it by the Board of Directors, and such powers and duties may be any or all the powers and duties granted or assigned hereunder to the said Board.

Said Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, General Manager (if he be a member of the Board of Directors), the Director proposed by the Market Director of the State of California, and the remaining members shall be elected by the Board of Directors in its discretion from the Directors.

(2) Said committee shall hold office at the pleasure of the

Board and shall keep records of its proceedings and report monthly to the Board;

(3) Said committee may meet and vote upon any subject within its powers at their discretion and in any manner, by telegraph, telephone or otherwise—Provided, however, that all matters, other than ordinary commercial details, be finally set down in writing in the minutes of the said committee and signed by the members thereof.

## ARTICLE XI

### Location of Office

The principal office and place of business of the Corporation shall be at San Francisco, California, and the Corporation may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, also maintain offices at such other places as may be expedient.

## ARTICLE XII

### General Manager

The Board of Directors may elect a General Manager of the Corporation, under terms and conditions of service and remuneration satisfactory to the said Board. The General Manager may be a member of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Offices Held by Directors

One Director may be elected to and fill only one office on the Board of Directors of this Corporation. Any Director may hold the position of General Manager in addition to any elective office hereunder or may be employed by the Corporation in any capacity, under any terms; but no such employment shall become effective unless so determined by the vote of at least seven members of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV

Any Director or other officer may resign his office at any time, such resignation to be made in writing and to take effect from the time of its acceptance by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XV

### Duties of Officers May Be Delegated

In case of the absence of any officer of the Corporation, or for any other reason that the Board may deem sufficient, the Board may delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or to any Director for a stated time, Provided, that a majority of the entire Board concurs therein.

## ARTICLE XVI

### Books and Papers

Such books and such papers as may be placed on file by vote of the stockholders or Directors shall, at all times during business hours, be subject to the inspection of the Board of Directors and of any stockholder.

## ARTICLE XVII

### Certificates of Stock

(1) Certificates of stock shall be of such form and device as the Board of Directors may direct; shall be signed by the President or a Vice-President and countersigned by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary; and the certificates of each class of stock shall express on their face the number, date of issuance, the number of shares for which and the person to whom they are issued, and the substance of such other appropriate provisions as appear in Paragraph Sixth of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation; Provided, that no stock shall be sold except to poultry producers (except that the Director proposed by the State Market Director, if he be not a poultry producer, may hold one share of stock to qualify

as a Director of this Corporation), and, Provided further, that before the issuance of any certificate of stock to poultry producers, such poultry producers must have signed as a condition precedent to the receipt of such certificate of stock, agreements with the Corporation for the sale of all their products to the Corporation, subject to present existing contracts, in terms substantially the same as those set forth in the form of agreement herein contained (See appendix.);

(2) The certificate book shall contain a margin on which shall be entered the number, date, number of shares and name of the person expressed in the corresponding certificate.

## ARTICLE XVIII

### Transfer of Stock

(1) Shares of the Corporation may be transferred at any time, subject to the provisions of Paragraph Sixth of the Articles of Incorporation and Article Seventeen of the By-Laws, by the holder or by his legal representative, by endorsement on the certificate of stock. But no transfer shall be valid until the endorsed certificate has been surrendered and unless all other provisions of the said Paragraph Sixth of the Articles of Incorporation and Article Seventeen of the By-Laws have been observed;

(2) A surrendered certificate shall be canceled by the Secretary before a new one is issued in lieu thereof, and the Secretary shall preserve the certificate so canceled as a voucher. If, however, a certificate is lost or destroyed, the Board of Directors may order a new certificate issued as may be by law permitted.

## ARTICLE XIX

### Meetings

(1) The annual meeting of the stockholders shall be held at the office of the Corporation at San Francisco, California, on the first Monday in October of each year, beginning with the year 1917, and shall be called by a notice printed in one or more newspapers published in the City and County of San Francisco, as the Directors may instruct, for at least fifteen days preceding the day of meeting, and by a notice in writing, signed by the President or Vice-President, delivered to each stockholder personally or mailed to him (postage prepaid), to his last-known address at least twenty days before the day of such meeting;

(2) No meeting of stockholders shall transact business unless a majority of the entire subscribed capital stock is represented either in person or by proxies in writing, except to adjourn from day to day or until such time as may be deemed proper;

(3) At such annual meeting Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by ballot, in the manner provided by law and in these By-Laws, to serve for one year and until their successors are elected. If, however, for want of a quorum or other cause a stockholders' meeting be not held on the day above named, or should the stockholders fail to complete their elections or such other business as may be presented for their consideration, those present may adjourn from day to day until the same shall be accomplished in the manner provided in the Civil Code;

(4) Special meetings of the stockholders for any purpose or purposes other than those regulated by statute may be called by the President or Board of Directors;

(5) Business transacted at all special meetings of stockholders shall be confined to the objects stated in the call and matters germane thereto;

(6) Written notice of a special meeting of stockholders stating the time, place and object thereof shall be mailed (postage prepaid) to each stockholder at such address as shall appear on the books of the Corporation in the manner specified in this Article for annual meetings of stockholders, except that there shall not be required any notice by publication.

## ARTICLE XX

### Waiver of Notice

Any stockholder, officer or Director may waive in writing any notice required to be given under these By-Laws or otherwise.

## ARTICLE XXI

### Amendments

The By-Laws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the stockholders by a majority vote of all the stock issued and outstanding voting in favor of such amendment; Provided notice of intention to amend shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting.

## PRODUCE SALE AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made between the POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, INC., a California corporation organized for co-operative marketing of poultry products, with its principal office at San Francisco, California. hereinafter called the Buyer, first party, and the undersigned poultry producer, hereinafter called the Seller, second party:

### Witneseth

In consideration of the mutual obligations herein and of the agreements by each of the parties hereto to be performed and in compliance with the By-Laws of the Corporation and in pursuance of the express aims of the corporation for co-operative marketing and for the elimination of speculation in poultry products and in consideration of similar obligation undertaken by many other poultry producers:

1. The Buyer agrees to purchase and the Seller agrees to sell and deliver to the Buyer, the eggs and the poultry, subject to Paragraph 6 hereof, produced or acquired by or for him during the year 1920 that he intends to sell or market in any event, for the price to be secured by the Buyer as hereinafter mentioned.

2. (a) The Buyer agrees to resell said eggs and poultry, together with similar products from other Sellers, at the best prices obtainable in the Buyer's judgment under market conditions and to pay over the amounts received thereby, as payment in full, to the Sellers named in contracts generally similar to this contract, according to the quantities of eggs and poultry delivered by the respective Sellers, subject to Paragraph 6 hereof, after deducting therefrom the cost of transportation, the cost of cases and fillers, and an amount for selling costs and expenses not to exceed one cent per dozen for eggs and eight (8) per cent of gross selling price for poultry, all as determined by the Buyer, in its sole and exclusive discretion.

(b) If, at the end of the fiscal year, a surplus is available from the said deduction for selling costs, the Buyer shall refund such surplus to the Sellers, in proportion to the value of their respective deliveries, after making appropriate reserves for a reasonable dividend, advertising and other commercial purposes, all in the discretion of the Buyer.

3. (a) The eggs delivered by the Seller hereunder shall become the absolute property of the Buyer and shall be sold with other eggs of like grade and like quality purchased by the Buyer under contracts generally similar to this contract and the amount to be paid to the Seller weekly shall be based on the proportional value in eggs delivered by him to the Buyer, out of the total weekly receipts of moneys from the sale or other disposition of the eggs and inventory value of unsold eggs, according to quality and grade, less the deductions hereinabove mentioned, all as determined by the Buyer.

(b) The Buyer shall in its discretion store or warehouse eggs to be held for the season of minimum production or for a better market or otherwise. Any eggs so stored or warehoused shall be deemed to have been resold at the current market value on the dates of storage as conclusively determined by the Buyer; and the sale price, so calculated, shall be added to the receipts from the eggs actually sold during that week and shall be distributed as part of the weekly receipts as above provided.

(c) Any net profits, after paying all warehousing charges, interest, taxes, insurance and other costs, resulting from the ultimate resale of such eggs by the Buyer shall be divided proportionately, on the basis of the value of the respective deliveries, among the Sellers delivering eggs to the Buyer during the period in which such eggs are stored, all as determined conclusively by the Buyer.

Any losses, after paying all warehousing charges, interest, taxes, insurance and other costs, resulting from the ultimate resale of such eggs by the Buyer shall be chargeable against and be paid by the Sellers proportionately on the value of the respective deliveries of the Sellers delivering eggs to the Buyer during the period in which such eggs are stored, all as determined conclusively by the Buyer.

(d) The Buyer in its discretion may ship any of the eggs delivered hereunder to any market where, in its judgment, fair prices may be obtained therefor.

Any eggs so shipped shall be deemed to have been resold at the current market value on the dates of shipment, as conclusively determined by the Buyer, and the sale price, so calculated, shall be added to the receipts from the eggs actually sold during that week and shall be distributed as part of the weekly receipts as above provided.

Any profits resulting from any of the said operations shall be placed in the general corporate funds, subject to distribution in accordance with the By-Laws of the Buyer.

(e) Any losses resulting from any of the operations in 3 (d) shall be charged against general corporate activities of the Buyer as a necessary commercial overhead expense and the Buyer may, in its discretion, create reserves against such contingencies.

(f) The Buyer may in its discretion sell or consign any of the eggs to hotels, restaurants, retail stores or other large users of eggs and the costs of any such business, as determined conclusively by the Buyer, shall be charged against the proceeds therefrom in addition to the deductions provided in paragraph 2 hereof, before the receipts are mingled with the total weekly receipts for distribution among the Sellers hereunder.

(g) The Seller agrees that the Buyer may handle and market the eggs, some in one way and some in another, all in its sole and exclusive discretion.

(h) The Seller agrees that the Buyer, as the actual owner of the eggs hereunder, may borrow money thereon and exercise any and every right of ownership thereof.

4. (a) The Buyer shall be the sole judge of the standard, quality and grade of the eggs and poultry and shall adopt such method of standardization as will be the most advantageous in general.

(b) The Buyer may make rules and regulations and provide inspectors to standardize the quality method and manner of handling, packing and shipping of eggs and poultry for any purpose; and the seller agrees to observe and perform any such rules and regulations prescribed by the Buyer.

(c) All eggs and poultry delivered to or at the order of the Seller hereunder shall be of the standard and conform to the regulations as to quality and otherwise that may be prescribed by the State and Federal authorities or the Buyer.

(d) Any deduction or allowance or loss or expense that the Buyer in its discretion may make or suffer or incur on account of eggs or poultry of inferior quality or standard or undesirable conditions as determined by the Buyer, shall be charged against the Seller and be deducted from his net returns hereunder.

(e) The Seller expressly agrees that all eggs and poultry delivered hereunder shall be free from damage of any kind and in good marketable and merchantable condition and shall be delivered to the Buyer as, when and where it shall direct.

5. (a) This agreement shall be binding upon the Seller during the term hereof as long as he is a poultry producer or possesses any legal interest in poultry or poultry products and he shall be obligated by all the terms hereof for any eggs and poultry produced or acquired by or for him.

(b) Any transfer of poultry or of poultry farms by the Seller to any relative of any degree or to any person in trust during the term hereof shall be deemed to have been made subject to and conditional upon compliance with all of the terms hereof by any such transferee and such compliance is a continuing obligation of the Seller.

6. The Seller shall have the right to dispose of his poultry at his own discretion until the Buyer, by ten days' notice mailed to him at his last known address, instructs the Seller to deliver all of the poultry that they intend to sell or market in any event, as, when and where and for as long a period only as the Buyer may direct. In the event of such notice, all of the provisions hereof shall be applied to poultry as well as to eggs, excepting that on the resale of poultry, each Seller's deliveries shall be handled separately and the returns shall be made to him individually, less all of the deductions herein provided.

Both parties agree that the Buyer need not market poultry hereunder, unless and until the Buyer, in its discretion, deems it necessary for the protection of the public against manipulation of prices by speculative dealers to handle and market the poultry on the co-operative basis herein set forth for as long a period as the Buyer may deem proper.

7. The Seller shall have the right without charge to use or sell eggs for hatching and hens or pullets for increasing or renewing the flocks and cockerels and cocks for breeding, all subject to such regulations as the Buyer may make.

8. This agreement is one of a series generally similar in terms, comprising, with all such agreements, signed by individual Sellers, one single contract between the Buyer and the said Sellers, mutually and individually obligated under all of the terms thereof, excepting individual withdrawals as provided in paragraph 9. The Buyer shall be deemed to be acting in its own name for and in the interest of all of such Sellers in any action or legal proceeding on or arising out of this contract.

9. This agreement shall continue in full force and effect in and throughout each of the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, respectively, unless the Seller by written notice sent by registered mail to the Buyer between October 1st and October 15th of any year, beginning with 1920, terminates this agreement as to such Seller, as of December 31st of that year.

10. If the Buyer brings any action to enforce any provisions hereof or to secure specific performance hereof or to collect damages of any kind for any breach hereof, the Seller agrees to pay to the Buyer all costs of court, costs for bonds and otherwise, expenses of travel and all expenses arising out of or caused by the litigation and any reasonable attorney's fee expended or incurred by it in any such proceedings, and all such costs and expenses shall be included in the judgment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any lien securing any payment hereunder.

11. The Seller agrees that in the event of a breach by him of any material provision hereof, particularly as to delivery or marketing of any eggs or poultry other than to or through the Buyer, the Buyer shall, upon proper action instituted by it, be entitled to an injunction to prevent further breach hereof and a decree for specific performance hereof, according to the terms of this agreement; and the Buyer and the Seller expressly agree that this agreement is not a contract for personal service or demanding exceptional capacity or talents and that this is a contract for the purchase and sale of personal property under special conditions and circumstances; and that the Buyer limits its purchases of eggs and poultry to producers co-operating with it under this form of contract and can not go out into the open markets and buy eggs or poultry to replace any which the Seller may fail to deliver; and that this contract will be the proper subject for the remedy of specific performance in the event of a breach thereof.

12. Inasmuch as it is now and ever will be impracticable and extremely difficult to determine the actual damage resulting to the Buyer should the Seller fail to deliver to the Buyer all of the eggs and poultry herein agreed to be delivered, the Seller hereby agrees to pay to the Buyer seven cents for each dozen eggs and one dollar for each dozen commercial poultry sold, consigned, delivered or marketed by or for him and so undelivered to the Buyer, as liquidated damages for the breach

of this contract in that regard, all parties agreeing that this contract is one of series dependent for its true value upon the adherence of each and all of the contracting parties to each and all of the said contracts.

13. In the event that the Buyer, in the exercise of its contractual rights, purchases all of the capital stock of the Buyer owned by the Seller, thereupon the Seller and the Buyer shall be released and relieved from any and all further obligations under this agreement.

14. The parties expressly agree that there are no oral or other agreements, understandings or conditions between them in addition to those herein set forth that this contract represents the intent of both parties clearly, thoroughly and completely.

READ, CONSIDERED AND SIGNED by the Seller this-----  
day of-----192---, at -----, California.

DO NOT SIGN WITHOUT READING. -----

Seller.

Number hens in flock----- Address—Route----- Box-----  
Town-----

By authority of a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Poultry Producers of Central California, Inc., adopted on July 22, 1919, this agreement is approved, accepted and executed.

#### POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, Inc.

San Francisco, Calif.,-----192-- By-----

#### POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, INC.

##### Agreement

This Agreement, made between the Poultry Producers of Central California, Inc., a California corporation, organized for the co-operative marketing of poultry and poultry products, hereinafter called the Association, first party, and the undersigned poultry producer, hereinafter called the Producer, second party.

##### Witnesseth:

Whereas, The said Poultry Producers of Central California, Inc., proposes to increase its capital stock, from the sum of \$250,000,000.00 divided into 25,000 shares of the par value of \$10.00 each, to \$750,000.00 divided into 75,000 shares of the par value of \$10.00 each; and

Whereas, The undersigned Producer is a member of the Association and desires to assist the Association in financing its operations,

Now, Therefore, in consideration of similar obligations undertaken by many other poultry producers who are members of the Association, the parties hereto agree:

1. The Producer hereby authorizes the Association to deduct from his weekly egg returns one cent for each dozen of eggs marketed for him from and after the date hereof and during the term of the standard produce sale agreement signed by said Producer; and the Association agrees to credit and apply said deductions in the event said capital stock is increased on the account of the respective Producer toward the purchase of additional shares of capital stock of the Association at par, which the Producer hereby agrees to purchase; and such additional shares shall be delivered to the respective purchasers as and when each is fully paid for; but no such deduction shall be made after the total authorized capital stock of \$750,000.00 has been fully paid for.

It is understood that the issuance of any shares of stock of the Association is dependent upon the Association's securing a permit from the Commissioner of Corporations of the State of California, so to do. In the event no such permit is secured by December 31, 1921, then the Association agrees immediately to repay to the Producer the deduction theretofore made from his weekly egg returns.

## POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, INC.

By-----

PRODUCER-----

P. O. Address—Route-----Box-----

Town-----

Dated-----1921.

### APPLICATION FOR STOCK

The undersigned hereby applies for and agrees to purchase----- shares of the capital stock of the POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, INC., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of California for co-operative marketing of poultry products, at the par value thereof, namely \$10.00 per share, payable upon demand.

The undersigned expressly states that he is a poultry producer and that this purchase of stock is at the rate of one (1) share for every thousand or majority fraction of thousand hens owned by him; and that he has executed herewith the standard Produce Sale Agreement with the Corporation for the sale of his poultry products to the said Corporation on a co-operative marketing basis therein set forth.

Dated this-----day of-----, 192-----

(Name)-----

(Address)-----

Accepted this-----this day-----192-----

POULTRY PRODUCERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, Inc.

By-----

### ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATIVE POULTRY PRODUCING AND MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS

Some of the advantages which members of the Co-operative Poultry Associations will enjoy through the co-operative movement are these:

"1st. All incubating can be done by the Association's Central Incubating Plant, having a capacity large enough to hatch the eggs of all members; scientifically designed and operated by experts. This insures each member against the great losses incident to individual incubation without expert care. The cost of incubating will thus be greatly reduced, and the percentage of healthy chicks increased.

"2nd. The Association can relieve the individual members of the work of selling their produce. Businesslike sales methods, daily collecting and shipping of the eggs, and disposing of them to leading hotels, restaurants, hospitals, institutions, dining cars and fancy grocery stores at fancy prices, which are easily secured for day old eggs, laid by sanitariously housed, grain-fed chickens. Eggs laid by disease infected barnyard hens, scratching their living from a manure pile, really would not come into competition with these eggs.

"3rd. Association's slaughter and dressing of fowls. Packing and shipping broilers and roasters at top prices. This eliminates for the member a very disagreeable part of the business.

"4th. Feathers and offal turned into commercial channels and marketed at ruling prices.

"5th. Low co-operative cost of selling, packing, shipping and collecting, as the expenses of these can be pro-rated among the members according to the value of the produce handled for each individual.

"6th. Standardization of breed, housing, care, feeding, etc. The adoption of improved chicken houses, expert care, scientific feeding.



"7th. Proper feed, bought at car load cost prices; all supplies and equipment, such as fencing and building material, at wholesale prices.

"8th. Frequent inspection of each member's farm, as to care, health and housing of fowls to insure efficiency of each flock, as regards egg production.

"9th. To further the prestige and reputation of eggs and poultry, a trademark can be adopted. Eggs can be marketed in attractive cartons, which can be stamped with the date on which the eggs were laid.

"10th. Members should be required to comply with the rules and regulations of the Association in order that their eggs and poultry may become famous throughout the country, it being to the advantage of all that the name shall be a guarantee of the finest produce of its kind.

"11th. Elimination, in so far as it is humanly possible by experience and knowledge, of all the troubles that beset the individual poultryman, working single handed.

"12th. Each member should have equal rights in the selection of officers and in determining the policies of the Association, as it is his organization. Each member should be entitled to but one vote.

"13th. Monthly meetings for the discussion of conditions in the enterprise, when ideas and suggestions for betterments are considered, and policies adopted.

"14th. Only members are given the service and benefits of the Association."

### A WOMEN'S EGG CLUB

Mr. M. E. Bacon is authority for the statement that surrounding Guthrie, Todd County, Kentucky, the farms are well supplied with chickens, and eggs are produced in large quantities. These were sold to the stores in Guthrie, at prices that were uncertain and in summer were very low. The women became dissatisfied and cast about for some relief.

One day, when County Agent G. T. Wyatt was in Guthrie, one of the women asked for a suggestion. His reply was like this: "Why don't you organize an egg club, the same as the farmers organize clubs for various purposes? Sell strictly fresh eggs; grade them rigidly as to size and color; guarantee each one to be all right in every respect. I don't believe you will have any trouble in finding a market at prices well above what you can get here."

The women started to work along the lines suggested. Six women pooled their eggs for the first shipment. Others were interested but uncertain, and wanted to see a test made. When the returns were in the sale showed a net profit of two and a half cents a dozen over the price offered in Guthrie. Then the club membership grew rapidly. At the end of six months there were ninety members, with more applying. In that time the eggs sold amounted to more than \$1,300. And so well had the women followed Mr. Wyatt's advice as to quality that not a single claim had been received for an egg broken or stale.

The club is organized as the Guthrie Poultry and Produce Association and on their stationery appears the slogan: "Guaranteed Poultry, Eggs and Produce." So far the activities of the club have been confined to the sale of eggs, but the success there has been so pronounced that the women expect to branch out into furnishing both live and dressed poultry and possibly other farm produce.

In all this the men have played no active part. The women have handled the entire proposition themselves. The eggs are received, graded, packed and shipped by the women, and when the money is received it is paid out by the club officers. The plan is remarkably simple.

The eggs are delivered each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon by the club members to the express office in the depot at Guthrie. For, mind you, the club has no warehouse or place of business, no capital stock and no salaries. A committee of women is always at the express office there to receive the eggs as they are brought in—in every sort of basket, box or other carrier. As each lot of eggs is received it is carefully counted and graded and the number credited. Every egg has to be of full size, of the right color, clean, and laid since the last shipping date. Un-

dersized, off-colored or dirty eggs are promptly rejected and returned to the owner, or sold on the local market.

After acceptance the eggs are wiped off with a damp cloth and packed in ordinary crates holding thirty dozen each. These are shipped the same afternoon. The standard weight of a crate of eggs is fifty-three pounds, but those of the Guthrie women have ranged from fifty-seven to fifty-nine pounds.

The semi-weekly shipments have ranged from something over 400 dozen in the summer, when the hens were laying freely, to ninety dozen early in December.

Prices have netted the club members from ten cents to fourteen cents a dozen more than could have been obtained at home. The first week in December the women were getting the very satisfactory price of fifty cents a dozen.

Originally the idea was to advertise the eggs and sell them in small quantities to individual consumers, shipping by parcel post. But the advertisements brought inquiries from many sources that wanted to contract for the entire lot each time. Among these the application of a fancy grocery "somewhere in Florida" proved to be just what the club was looking for. This grocer was willing to pay the top market price and to take all the eggs that could be shipped to him. He made prompt settlement as soon as the eggs arrived and were counted. To him, the entire lot has been going each shipping day for several months.

For the first six months the only expenses were expressage and a cent a dozen for crates. The receiving committee and officers gave their services absolutely free of charge. But the business has attained such proportions that this year a small fee will be charged against each dozen eggs to pay the workers for their trouble.

### THE ORGANIZATION OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' POULTRY CLUBS

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture has charge of the Boys' and Girls' Poultry Club work, and their suggestions are as follows:

Throughout the year meetings should be held to discuss the different problems of poultry management, and at such meetings the Animal Husbandry Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, will have in attendance, whenever possible, one of its specialists on poultry to assist in solving such questions or problems as might arise and to give whatever help and information he can to the members on such subjects as selection of stock, candling demonstrations, etc. He will also assist in securing first-class markets for the sale of the poultry and eggs.

Each county club should hold an exhibition once a year, preferably in connection with the county fair, at which place a pair of the best chickens grown by each member should be placed on exhibition and entered to compete in the regular classes for premiums offered by the fair association, as well as for the special prizes offered for members of the poultry clubs. An exhibit of the best dozen of eggs should also be made.

It will be well to have a president, one or more vice-presidents, and a secretary.

It is advisable for the teacher in charge to be honorary president of the club.

A simple constitution and by-laws should be adopted. It will be found profitable to subdivide the county organization by townships, schools, or school districts, and have local meetings at schoolhouses or at different members' homes occasionally.

### SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article I. This club shall be known as the (insert name of the school district) Boys' and Girls' Poultry Club.

Article II. The objects of the club shall be: (1) To obtain a greater knowledge of the value of raising and breeding standard-bred poultry; (2) to teach better methods of marketing first class poultry and eggs of uniform quality; (3) to learn how to carry on the hatching, rearing, feeding, and housing of poultry.

Article III. Any boy or girl between 10 and 18 years of age can be-

come a member of the club on signing the membership roll and on agreeing to set at least one sitting of 13 eggs during the hatching season.

Article IV. Members shall not pay any dues or assessments.

Article V. Each member must study the instructions sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture and agree to furnish reports of work when requested to do so.

Article VI. The officers of the club shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary.

Article VII. The president or secretary has the right to call a meeting of the club at any time. The annual meeting shall take place as soon after January 1 of each year as possible. The officers for the ensuing year shall be elected at that meeting and shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Article VIII. Each member is expected to exhibit every fall or winter live poultry of his or her own raising and one dozen best table eggs at a county fair or other suitable place. They can compete for the regular premiums offered by the fair association, as well as for the special prizes offered to the members of the club.

Article IX. All prizes on live poultry must be decided in accordance with the standards of the breeds in the American Standard of Perfection, published by the American Poultry Association.

### **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

The award of prizes on fowls and eggs shall be made according to the rules published by the American Poultry Association.

It will be found best to distribute the prizes as widely as possible. Honor and recognition sometimes count for more than money. Badges, certificates and diplomas given to the club members are often more appreciated than money and expensive premiums. The same badge or emblem used by canning club members will be used by members of the poultry club. When liberal amounts are offered for prizes, it will be well to give them in every township or school district, and offer premiums to the club that will make the highest records with 5 or 10 in a team, dividing this premium into several different awards, depending upon the rank.

### **FOUR YEARS' WORK FOR POULTRY CLUBS**

#### **First Year**

Each member shall set at least three sittings of eggs from pure-bred stock, and raise seven pullets and one cockerel. All hatching must be completed by May 15. A composition on poultry management must be submitted to the agent in charge of the club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

#### **Second Year**

Each member shall set at least three sittings of eggs from pure-bred stock, and raise seven pullets and one cockerel. All hatching must be completed by May 10. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the County or State fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of the club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

#### **Third Year**

Each member shall raise at least 25 pure-bred pullets and 2 cockerels. All hatching must be completed by May 1. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the County or State fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of the club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

#### **Fourth Year**

Each member shall raise at least 30 pure-bred pullets and 3 cockerels. All hatching must be completed by May 1. A pair of birds and one dozen eggs from this stock shall be exhibited at the County or State fair. A composition on some phase of poultry work shall be submitted to the agent in charge of the club work. Accurate records are also to be kept and sent to the above mentioned official, and all meetings of the poultry club must be attended.

The hatching and rearing of the chickens; the condition of chickens and cleanliness of coops and poultry buildings; the cost of producing eggs; accuracy and neatness of records; attendance at meetings; exhibits at the fairs; and written articles on poultry work shall be considered in rating members and awarding prizes.

# Poultry Associations

## Suggestions for Organization and Conduct of Poultry Exhibits

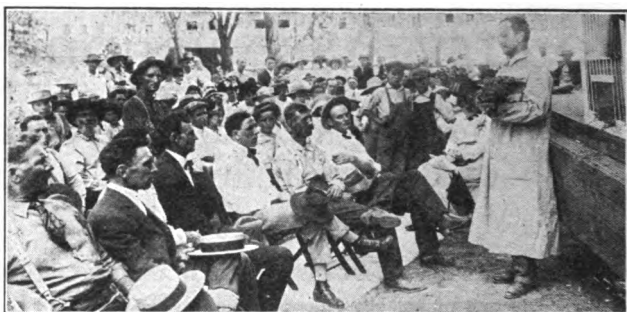
### THE VALUE OF POULTRY SHOWS AND ASSOCIATIONS

In the early history of the Standard-bred poultry industry the organization of poultry associations and the holding of small shows was largely responsible for placing the industry upon the solid foundation on which it rests today. These prior organizations were fathered and supported by the "Grand Old-timers," who in reality were responsible for the poultry industry as we find it at the present time. They were often humiliated by being called "poultry cranks"; though today the financial importance of the poultry industry in every state in the Union shows that these old-timers built much better than they knew. At the beginning the Standard-bred poultry industry was a fad of the fanciers, so to speak, yet the fanciers, associations and exhibitions multiplying and gaining in importance year after year have resulted in the growth and development of a wonderful industry, the importance and magnitude of which begins to startle the world by its constantly and rapidly increasing immensity.

The interest, enthusiasm, and the demand for knowledge which was created by these small towns and associations has been responsible for the establishment of poultry departments in colleges of agriculture, together with experimental stations and extension departments here. It is a conceded fact that in many communities where we find a well conducted poultry show or a properly organized and enthusiastic association, even though they be very small ones, the poultry industry in that section is of greater proportions than in communities where such a show or association does not exist. Farmers and town people are attracted to poultry shows, where they meet more experienced breeders and where they can see and talk over progress that has been made in breeding for shape, size, color, and egg production. It is a meeting place for poultry breeders; they study each other's methods; they associate ideas and profit much by observation and communication. One of the greatest and most important influences toward better and more Standard-bred poultry are monthly meetings held by poultry associations for the purpose of discussing various phases of practical methods and questions pertaining to poultry breeding and work. The good which is done and can be done as a result of such work on the part of poultry associations is beyond estimation.

Some poultry shows and associations, like business firms, live to a ripe age, while others die in infancy. In every state we can find an association which has been in existence for a number of years and holding a successful show each year, which is a financial success. In the same state we find another association which makes a flattering beginning, but within a year or two it becomes disorganized and is no longer heard from. Such shows are held at a loss and the members become dissatisfied. These conditions are generally brought about by improper organization. Appreciating the good and valuable work that may result from a properly organized poultry association, it is the purpose of this lesson to show how to avoid many mistakes commonly made and to offer suggestions which should aid in the organization, encouragement and

strengthening of poultry associations and the holding of an annual poultry exhibition.



**A Poultry Association and a Demonstration in Judging Poultry**

### **HOW TO PROCEED TO ORGANIZE**

Many counties and cities fail to have a good poultry organization because they do not know just how to proceed to organize; or for the lack of sufficient encouragement, there is no one who cares to attempt it alone.

One of the first things that should be done, even before attempting to organize, is to write one or more articles for your local daily, weekly and county papers. The first article should point out the value and importance of the industry to the state. The second should deal with the importance of the industry to your county and, if possible, mention certain cases where you know farmers or poultry raisers have done well with poultry, or other specific facts about poultry raising in your own county. The third might deal with the advantages of a good live poultry organization in your community or city, and the benefits to be derived from same. In this article you might also call a meeting of those interested in holding a poultry show or in forming a good live association, to meet at the city hall, opera house, or some other public place which is centrally located. Make plain the date, the hour and the place. Invite and urge the attendance of all who are in any way interested. It would also be a good idea to post public notices, write postals, or send out a circular letter to a few of those whom you think would most likely be interested in the proposition, and urge them to come and co-operate. It is often a good idea to have two or three papers prepared and read, a talk made or a little entertainment provided.

Such methods as the above usually bring at least a few people. You can then proceed with the organization. Elect a temporary president and secretary, and the permanent officers can be elected after those present have been given an opportunity to state their views as to the advisability of an association, its purpose and its extent.

In organizing we suggest that you not only elect a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and an executive board, but you will make no mistake if you should elect a vice-president from each township in the county. These people, if they are the right sort, will strengthen your organization and add new members from every portion of the community which you desire to cover. You will find, as a rule, that three or four poultrymen have to carry the burden and be responsible for the success of the show or the association for a greater portion of the year. So do not be discouraged if everybody does not fall in line from the very start or should fail to give you the help you really deserve. Also, bear in mind there are always some knockers.

# **SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR COUNTY POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS**

## **ARTICLE I**

The name of this organization shall be the-----  
----- Poultry Association.

## **ARTICLE II**

The object of this association is to promote the poultry industry in all its branches, to encourage the breeding of pure-bred poultry, to hold one annual poultry show, to co-operate with the State Poultry Association and with all other institutions or associations in the state that are in any way trying to encourage the production of more poultry and eggs and the improvement of the quality of same.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MEMBERSHIP.**

Section 1. All members in the association shall be active members.

Section 2. Any person of good character and reputation may become an active member of the association. Application shall be made to the Secretary-Treasurer and must be accompanied by the membership fee for one year.

Section 3. Membership shall be acknowledged by the Association Membership Card, and shall date from the time of such acknowledgment, terminating one year from that date.

Section 4. The annual dues shall be one dollar (\$1.00), 50c to pay your membership in this association, and 50c to pay for membership in the State Poultry Association.

Section 5. A payment of \$10.00 at any time, shall entitle any member to a life membership without additional fee, subject to expulsion as provided.

Section 6. Charges of misconduct of a member shall be made in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer or President; the Executive Committee shall consider these charges together with the defense of the member, and the said Committee may, on a majority vote, suspend or expel the member.

Section 7. An expelled or suspended member may appeal from the decision of the Executive Committee and the matter shall then be submitted to the vote of the Association members. Unless the majority of the members voting shall reverse the decision of the Executive Committee, an expelled member shall be ineligible for future membership in the Association. If the expelled member is a "life member" the Association will deduct the annual dues per year for the actual term of membership and refund the balance.

Section 8. Members may resign by giving notice to the Secretary in writing; but no resignation shall be accepted if the member be in arrears for dues or if there be any charges pending against him.

## **ARTICLE IV**

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, a District Vice-President in each township, having membership in the Association, and an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, and five members to be elected annually.

Section 2. The general supervision and conduct of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee, when the Association is not in session.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall carry out the instructions of the Association, shall authorize expenditures (but no expenditures shall be authorized beyond the assets of the Association), shall devise means to carry out the objects of the Association, shall make such rules as may be deemed necessary during the year for the conduct of meetings, the awarding of prizes, etc., and shall perform such other duties as are delegated to it by the By-Laws. They shall fill vacancies in office.

Section 4. The President shall carry out the instructions of the Board, shall approve proper and authorized claims against the Association, shall preside at such general meetings as he may attend, and shall perform such other duties as are herein provided, or such as are customary to the office and not herein otherwise delegated. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, as Secretary, conduct the general correspondence and keep the records of the Association. He shall, as Treasurer, collect all money due, and shall pay from the funds of the Association such claims as are properly authorized and approved. He shall furnish a bond covering the maximum assets of the Association, the premium on said bond to be paid by the Association. He shall keep an accurate record of all money received and paid out and make an annual report to the Association and open his books to the inspection of the Executive Committee when requested.

Section 6. The general supervision of the interests of the Association in any district shall be vested in the District Vice-President who resides in that township. He shall solicit members and carry out the wishes of the Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE V

In the election of officers all votes shall be taken by ballot, unless the members vote to suspend the rules. Voting on other propositions may be done in such manner as the Association thinks best. No proxies can be voted at any meeting of the Association.

#### ARTICLE VI

Unless otherwise provided, the President shall appoint Committees to prepare for and handle any special matter, meeting, event or action.

#### ARTICLE VII MEETINGS.

Section 1. Annual meetings of the Association shall be held in connection with the annual poultry show. The election of officers shall take place at this time, and such other business shall be transacted as seems for the best interest of the Association. Seven members shall constitute a quorum at an annual or business meeting.

Section 2. Monthly meetings of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Board may determine. Notices of such meetings shall be mailed to each member at least three days before the date of meeting. A program committee shall provide for papers, lectures, demonstrations, music, entertainments, refreshments, or such educational features as they deem best for the benefit and instruction of the members. Business matters may be transacted at each monthly meeting, provided there is a quorum present.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or must be called by him upon the written request of seven members. If any matters of importance are to be transacted at such meetings, the membership must be given due notice of same.

#### ARTICLE VIII

Any member in arrears for annual dues is hereby suspended, and can only be restored by full payment and a vote of the Executive Committee. Any member proven guilty of dishonesty in his dealings, thereby forfeits his membership.

#### ARTICLE IX

Any member of the Association found guilty of fraud or dishonorable conduct, shall be suspended from membership for such time as the Association shall decide, or be expelled from the Association by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting.

#### ARTICLE X

##### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading unapproved minutes of previous meeting.



3. Election of new members.
4. Reading of communications.
5. Unfinished business and reports of committees.
6. New business.
7. Monthly program.
8. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE XI

This constitution and by-laws may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote at the annual meeting, or by the same vote at a monthly or special meeting, providing the membership has been given notice of the proposed changes.

## SHOW RULES OF THE AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION

All shows that are members of the American Poultry Association are compelled to hold their shows under their rules if they expect to lay claim to any of the diplomas or medals offered by that Association. The Association must print these rules in their premium list or on the back of their entry blank. The rules are as follows:

Section 1. Under normal conditions entries shall close the day advertised (entries bearing postmark of that date being eligible and entry fees must be paid on or before that time, except when telegraphed, and in such cases remittance must follow by first mail.

Section 2. Any person under disqualification by the American Poultry Association is ineligible to enter, to compete, or to act as judge or in any other capacity.

Section 3. All entries must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor. Otherwise, he forfeits all entry fees, all prize money and all other premiums, as well as the right to have his birds remain in the show room. In cases of disqualification under this rule other exhibits shall, if qualified, be moved up in the list of winners subject to the disqualified exhibitor's right of appeal.

Section 4. In cases where it shall come to the knowledge of the management that disqualified parties have, unknown to them, succeeded in making an entry or entries, the right is reserved to cancel such entries, and such party shall forfeit his entry fee, prize money and other premiums.

The Show Management reserves the right to refuse entries from exhibitors whose conduct, in their opinion, makes it desirable for the welfare of the show that their birds be debarred from competition.

Section 5. In cases where entries are made at shows where catalogs are issued and exhibits are not sent, entry fees will not be returned. Associations that do not issue catalogs may use their discretion in this matter.

Section 6. Exhibitors attempting to interfere with or influence the judge or judges shall be dealt with as provided in Section 3.

Section 7. Judges shall be required to sign the judge's book or card provided by the Show Association. An official record of these awards shall be preserved by the Secretary for reference for a term of three years.

Section 8. No specimen shall be removed from the show until after it closes, except upon the written consent of the show Secretary or Superintendent.

Section 9. All entries are entered and shown at the risk of owners, and while associations are expected to exercise all reasonable care in the handling and protection of the exhibits, such associations will in no case be liable except as provided in Rule 10.

Section 10. Birds must be returned promptly at the close of the show, and any lost in the re-shipping, through proven carelessness or negligence on the part of the show association, are to be paid for by such association at a value not to exceed \$10 per bird, as agreed liquidation damages, it being understood that in subscribing to this rule the exhibitor does not waive any rights he may have at law.

Section 11. Any exhibitor disqualified for fraudulent practices shall

have the right of appeal to the Executive Board of the American Poultry Association within one year from the date of his qualification.

Section 12. Notice of a disqualification with a detailed statement shall be mailed, by the show association, within ten days, to the Secretary of the American Poultry Association and by registered mail to the disqualified party.

Section 13. In case of palpable error, or alleged fraudulent practice on the part of any judge, any exhibitor shall have the right within twelve hours after the awards are posted to make written protest, accompanied by such a deposit of money as the poultry association shall prescribe. The protest shall be passed upon by a committee of three, which shall consist of a representative of the show association, a poultry judge, and a disinterested exhibitor, and if sustained the money shall be refunded.

Section 14. Notice of protests that are sustained shall be mailed within ten days to the Secretary of the American Poultry Association, to be brought by him before the Executive Board, before whom an appeal may be taken by the judge within one year.

Section 15. No judge shall exhibit in any class which he is judging and he shall refuse to consider any bird that he may recognize as having been owned by him six months previous to the show, and no exhibitor or anyone interested in any exhibit that may be in the class shall act as assistant to the judge.

Section 16. Associations shall have the right to re-assign judges for cause or add to the list of judges as occasion may require.

Section 17. The placing of names, leg bands or marks of any sort, not provided by the show, on birds, or either on or in the coops shall be left to the rules of the Show Associations.

Section 18. Show managements shall have the right to refuse entry to the show room, or to remove from the same all diseased or unsightly birds, and are expected to avail themselves of this right. Entry fees on such birds shall be forfeited.

Section 19. All specimens must be exhibited in their natural condition with the exception of Games and Game Bantams. Any violation of this rule shall exclude such specimens from competition and cause the withholding of all premiums awarded.

Section 20. Any matter not provided for in the foregoing rules and regulations will be referred to the Executive Committee of the local show for decision.

Section 21. Where Standard Varieties of poultry that require the Double Mating System are exhibited, local associations are permitted to offer special prizes only for both single entries and pens containing specimens bred in accordance with the system of Double Mating practiced in such varieties. These specials must be plainly designated "Special Prizes," so as to be distinguished from the regular premiums offered for Standard awards.

Section 22. Every exhibitor hereby agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of the American Poultry Association and to abide by these rules, whether or not he is a member of the Association.

Section 23. Any Show Association may make additional rules or regulations provided they are not inconsistent with or in conflict with these rules.

Section 24. All Poultry Associations that are members of the American Poultry Association, shall be permitted to designate their exhibition as official poultry show, and to use the official entry blanks, judges' cards, ribbons, and other supplies furnished by the American Poultry Association.

Section 25. These show rules are official and are copyrighted, and can be used only by Poultry Associations or Societies that are associate members of the American Poultry Association.

Section 26. Local associations must offer premiums in all varieties of Standard-bred fowls.

Section 27. Special awards on sweepstakes shall be made on points; first prize to count 6; second, 4; third, 3; fourth, 2; and fifth, 1; pens to count double. The total number of points won by an exhibitor to be

multiplied by the number of birds exhibited in this variety; this grand total to be the number of points counted in the competition.

These show rules are copyrighted and are for the exclusive use of members of the American Poultry Association.

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR POULTRY SHOWS**

In order for poultry associations to avoid some trouble which might arise during their shows, and in order to meet local conditions which may exist, it is often necessary to have some rules and regulations in addition to those offered by the American Poultry Association. We simply offer a few suggestive rules below and they can be altered to suit local conditions.

These Rules and Regulations should be read and then re-read by all prospective exhibitors.

1. A square deal—the Golden Rule applies to all.
2. This show will be governed by and run under the latest revised poultry show rules of the American Poultry Association and all prizes will be awarded strictly according to the American Standard of Perfection.
3. This show is to be judged by the comparison method (or score card), but a statement will be mailed to each exhibitor showing the band numbers of each bird that won, showing all disqualified birds and what they were disqualified for.
4. Remember! Remember! That the entries close at midnight (on such date as your association determines). All entries are made and accepted in accordance with the rules of this association as herewith printed. Entries should be made upon the blanks furnished by this association, but may be made by letter, by telephone, or in person, providing the entry fees are paid in full before the judging shall have commenced. In all cases the name of the variety, number of specimens, leg band numbers, and the classes in which they are to compete, together with the name and address of the exhibitor, must be plainly stated.

Note: The cock class contains male birds over one year old; the cockerels class contains male birds under one year old. The hen class contains females over one year old; the pullet class contains females under one year old. The pen class contains one male and four females, either old or young.

5. All entries must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and should this rule be violated the exhibitor shall forfeit all entry fees, together with all prizes, which may have been awarded.

6. All entries are entered and shown at the risk of the exhibitor. This association will exercise every reasonable care in the handling and protection of all exhibits.

7. This association will, without extra charge, provide care, feed, and water to all exhibits intrusted to its care.

8. Specimens must be in the show room by midnight on such date as your association may desire and will not be received later, unless it can be shown that they were unavoidably delayed and then it is at the option of the show officers.

9. No specimen shall be removed from the show room until the close of the show except upon a written order of the secretary. Birds showing signs of disease will be excluded from the show room and returned as promptly as possible to the owner.

10. Exhibitors need not accompany their birds, but they may be sent (charges prepaid in full by the exhibitor) directed to the superintendent of the poultry show, and he will see that they are given the best of care and attention and at the close of the show they will be returned to their owner or disposed of as he may direct.

11. Exhibitors must ship their birds in exhibition coops furnished by themselves. Such coops should be thirty inches high and twenty-four inches square for birds entered in single classes, and should be twenty-four inches deep, thirty-six inches long, and thirty inches high for exhibition pens. A door must be placed in the front of each coop.

(Note to Officers: In case your association should own or rent sufficient exhibition coops to furnish all coops uniform and free to the ex-

hibitors we then suggest that the above Rule 11 be eliminated and the following rule used as Rule 11.)

This association will furnish modern uniform exhibition coops, free of charge, for each exhibitor. In shipping birds to this show do not ship two cocks or cockerels together in the same coop. After being separated all week in the show room they will fight, injure, and often kill one another on their return trip home. Ship your birds in light-weight, yet substantial coops. Do not ship but one variety in a coop.

12. Each variety must be shipped in a coop by themselves. If anyone sends two varieties in the same coop the birds will be refused admittance to the show.

13. The superintendent and assistants will have charge of the cooping and placing of all exhibits. No exhibitor will be allowed to handle his birds at this time without the consent of the superintendent.

14. No birds will be allowed in the show room, except those which have been regularly entered or for which display space has been arranged.

15. No one shall handle another's birds without permission.

16. No exhibitor will be allowed to advertise on coops other than his own. Neither shall any exhibitor place any ribbons on his coops other than those won at this exhibit this year. Ribbons won at previous years' exhibits of any association may be displayed by attaching same to a banner.

17. Competition in regular classes is open to the world. Poultrymen in neighboring counties and states are especially invited to exhibit with us.

18. A shipping tag will be mailed for each entry as promptly as possible, but should same not be received in time, birds should be shipped anyway and duplicate ones will be made on arrival of birds at the show room.

19. All birds must be leg banded and the number of each stated in entry blank.

20. Use our shipping tags and entry blanks to avoid mistakes. If you need more, ask for them.

21. Every exhibitor will be treated alike. Let's unite our efforts in making this a great and profitable meeting, a grand and successful exhibition.

22. All matters not provided for in the foregoing rules and regulations will be referred to the executive board of this association for decision.

23. Special awards or sweepstakes shall be awarded by the point system, as follows: A first prize to count six points, a second prize four points, a third prize three points, a fourth prize two points, and a fifth prize one point—points won on exhibition pens to count double. The total number of points won by an exhibitor shall be multiplied by the number of birds in his variety. This grand total to be the number of points counted for an exhibitor and the sweepstake prizes awarded accordingly. Special prizes on display for any one variety shall be awarded as follows:

"Special for best display of any one variety shall be made on points: First prize to count five; second, four; third, three; fourth, two; and fifth, one; pens to count double. If more than five awards are placed in any class all places below fifth shall receive one point for each such awards in the single classes and two points for pens.

24. Protests are to be entertained by this association only in cases of apparent dishonesty, ignorance, or carelessness on the part of the judge. In scoring the specimens in dispute, the judge, together with the president and secretary of the local association (or representative appointed by the management of the local association), shall constitute a committee of three and the majority decision of this committee shall be final. Score cards made out by the judge in deciding protested awards are to be retained by the association. When protests are entertained, where the judging has been done by score card, the specimens under dispute shall be rescored by the judge, he to act as a member of the committee of three, as provided, the scoring to be done in the presence of the other two members of the committee on protests.

Protests are not to be entertained except when made in writing and the person making same shall deposit with the secretry of the association the sum of five (\$5.00) dollars. This money to be returned to the person making the protest if his protest is sustained. If protest be not sustained, the deposit becomes the property of the association.

### ENTRY FEE

Entry fee for poultry in single class is 25c per bird.

Entry fee for breeding pens, consisting of one male and four females of same variety, is \$1.00 per pen.

Birds entered in single pens class can or cannot compete in the breeding pens, just as the association may determine.

Cash prizes, open to the competition of the world, will be paid as follows, on all varieties:

### PRIZES

#### SINGLE BIRDS

First premium -----	\$1.00
Second premium -----	1.00
Third premium -----	Ribbon
Fourth premium -----	Ribbon
Fifth premium -----	Ribbon

#### PEN CLASS

First premium -----	\$2.00
Second premium -----	1.00
Third premium -----	Ribbon
Fourth premium -----	Ribbon
Fifth premium -----	Ribbon

The association does not feel justified in paying the above liberal cash premiums and then offer all the specials that they do unless there is fair competition, and, therefore, it adopts the following rules:

Six or more entries—all money will be paid.

If there are less than six entries and as many as four, they will award all ribbons, but pay only one-half of the regular cash prizes on both pens and singles.

Beautiful American Poultry Association silk ribbons are used to distinguish each premium. The ribbons and premiums won at a show like this are more valuable to any exhibitor than the mere cash prizes, however large they might be.

The same premiums will be paid on Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and Bantams as stated above, and the same rules apply.

### SPECIAL PREMIUMS

Every association should appoint a committee to solicit a creditable list of cash and merchandise specials, silver cups and other prizes from their members and the business men of the city in which the show is to be held. These should be offered only to members of your association and increase your membership in that way.

### ADVERTISING IN PREMIUM LIST

Another committee should be appointed on advertising. They should solicit ads from the business men and the poultrymen who have stock and eggs for sale. In this way you can usually raise sufficient money to pay for the printing of the premium list and the cost of the poultry judge. If there is a live commercial club in the city, they should be asked to co-operate and, if possible, make some contribution to the success of the association and show.

### ENTRY FEES AND CLASSES

It is almost impossible to conduct even the smallest show on less entry fee than 25c per bird and \$1.00 per pen of four females and one male. In order to get a bird scored or to have it judged in comparison with other birds, any breeder should not refuse to pay an entry fee of 25c or more at even the smaller shows. It requires even a larger fee than that to make most shows pay expenses, unless they receive considerable financial backing from the business men of the community. Many shows make the mistake of charging too small an entry fee, and as a result

haven't sufficient money to pay their prizes and expenses, and the show and the management are in bad repute and the organization disbands.

Many shows also make a mistake by not requiring a certain number of birds to fill a class. If you require eight cocks, hens, cockerels or pullets to fill a class and you charge a 25c entry fee, this makes \$2.00 that the association receives in entry money. If you pay \$1.00 for first, 50c for second, and ribbons for third, fourth and fifth, this leaves 50c to pay the running expenses of the show; but if you only require two entries to fill a class you only get 50c in entry fees, and you pay \$1.00 for first and 50c for second; you then pay in premiums \$1.00 more than you received. The show is held for the benefit of the exhibitor. He has reaped the benefit of the winning and in addition has received more money than he paid out, and your association is in debt and perhaps wrecked. Breeders should not object to paying a reasonable entry fee, nor should they complain if a reasonable number of birds are required to fill a class. An association that does not take these precautions is short lived, unless it gets its support from outside sources.

### **LARGE OR SMALL PRIZES**

Very few associations pay their officers anything for their services. It is chiefly a labor of love. Then why should any set of officers be called upon to pay such large prizes that the show proves a financial failure? Many associations make the mistake of offering larger prizes than their entry fee will justify. Take the precaution to so regulate your premiums, your entry fee, and your requirements for filling classes that the entry fee will pay all regular premiums for that class and give you a little surplus to meet your incidental expenses. It is better to have a few less birds and be able to meet all your obligations, than it is to have a much larger show and not be able to pay half you promised and have everybody sore. This is a common mistake which has wrecked many a poultry association that started under the most favorable conditions. If you are wise, you will profit by your wisdom.

### **VALUE OF SPECIAL PRIZES AND THE PROPER METHOD OF AWARDING SAME**

By offering an attractive list of special prizes any association may be able to interest a large number of exhibitors in its show without the necessity of paying such large regular prizes as to bring financial loss. These prizes may be solicited from the business men and the members of the association. Every association should have a committee appointed for that purpose. These special prizes should consist of cash, silver cups, merchandise, and prizes that have both real value and drawing power.

It is usually best to open the special prizes to members of your own association. The regular prizes should be open to the world, as you are charging an entry fee to compete for these, but your specials should, in most cases, be open only to members of the association. This will increase your membership and bring in more revenue, to which you are entitled.

A very good method of awarding special prizes for the largest and best display of any variety is by points, as follows:

In all single classes the prizes are to count as follows: Each first prize counts 5 points; second prize, 4 points; third prize, 3 points; fourth prize, 2 points; fifth prize, 1 point; and one-half point for each additional bird entered which is not disqualified. Pen winnings are to count for double the number of points allowed for single birds. The exhibitor whose points total the greatest number is entitled to the prize for the largest and best display.

### **ATTRACTIVE SHOW ROOMS**

In the first place, the show room should be conveniently located so that your show may be put in close proximity to the people, and be well attended. The room should be well lighted, both day and night. If the room is dingy and dirty, it should be cleaned up and made as attractive as possible. A little decoration will often add much to the attractiveness of the show room. Use a few plants, a little bunting or flags, and some colored cheese cloth for decoration. Debar all unsightly coops. Keep

the floor swept and the room clean and attractive so your show will be the talk of the town.

### ENLIST HELP OF BUSINESS MEN

If the benefits of a poultry show and the importance of the poultry industry are properly presented to the commercial clubs and merchants of any city, it is not a difficult matter to enlist their help and co-operation. They will often give specials or agree to put on special sales each day during the show. Sometimes it is best to get one merchant to have a sale on one article during the week, another merchant to have a sale on another article in his line, and so on through the entire list of merchants. Get them to advertise these and to decorate their show windows appropriately for the week. On Saturday, or the closing day of the show, it is a good idea to give away several hundred pounds of candy to school children, especially from country districts. Other events may be put on at a small cost to the business men, and these propositions should be put up to them and their help enlisted. They will profit by it and so will your show.

### IMPORTANCE OF EGG SHOWS

The egg business is the most important branch of the poultry industry. The revenue from the sale of eggs exceeds that from the sale of poultry by several million dollars. The loss from bad eggs is tremendous. An egg exhibit is an attractive feature of any poultry show, and the shows which have not attempted same are neglecting an important feature and an opportunity to do the industry a great amount of good.

Arrange the exhibit in such a way that it will be attractive. Put on special features in connection with it. Have a display from all varieties. Have each labeled. Have a display of good eggs and bad eggs, clean eggs and dirty eggs, large eggs and small eggs, thin shelled eggs and perfect shelled eggs. Have each appropriately labeled.

Every show should have an expert to candle some of the eggs at a certain hour each afternoon and night. This expert should be able to demonstrate the various defects found in eggs, giving the reasons for same and showing how this loss can be avoided. If properly advertised and arranged, the exhibit of eggs can be made an attractive feature and one of great educational value to any show.

Score cards and instructions for judging eggs are now issued by the American Poultry Association, and these can be obtained from the secretary.

### LECTURES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Every poultry association should make its educational features one of its greatest attractions for both members and visitors. If some good does not result, if some advancement is not made in methods of breeding, care and management, if the poultry industry is not elevated and uplifted by the work done by an association of poultrymen, then that organization is scarcely worth while.

Poultry associations desiring lectures, demonstrations or exhibits must provide a suitable room or space for same. Never ask a lecturer to talk in a show room in opposition to the noise and confusion. Never ask for either of these unless you intend to see that the meetings are well advertised. It costs a great deal to send men about the state, and if some other association is turned down in order to accommodate you, your association should at least see that a crowd is present and the lecturer is not compelled to talk to empty benches. Your agricultural college will always be glad to help with this work when their finances will permit and they have the men and exhibits to supply.

### SUGGESTIONS TO THE SECRETARY

The greater part of the success of the average poultry show is due to the efficiency of the secretary. With him rests the responsibility for creating the show. One of his first duties should be to prepare a mailing list of all the fanciers in the county, together with the names and addresses of such fanciers in the territory from which the association expects to draw its entries, and each of the names on this list should be advised in regard to your show by circular letter and announcements in

the papers of your county as well as in the poultry papers. The first thing in order should be the selection of dates, first ascertaining whether there are any associations in close proximity which are intending to hold a show and if so on what dates said shows are to be held, so that a selection of dates may be made that will not conflict with shows that have already announced their dates. It is advisable and more satisfactory to select your judge before announcing your dates as it is not always possible to secure a competent judge upon the dates you may desire and you will, therefore, of necessity be required to hold your show on such dates as the judge selected may be able to give you.

To successfully conduct your show certain regulation supplies will be necessary, the most important of which will be neatly printed stationery, a premium list, entry blanks, entry tags, shipping tags, admission tickets, membership tickets, score cards, and the minute book, as well as one of the improved record books by which every entry can be recorded, including the record of all prizes, regular and special, that are made at your show. The premium list should be neatly printed and should contain rules and regulations, all information in regard to regular premiums which you intend to offer, together with all special premiums and any other information which your association desires to publish in the interest of your show. In order to make your premium list self-supporting it is advisable to sell advertising space to the breeders and merchants of your county. The size and number of pages will depend upon the amount of space to be used in the interest of your show and the amount of advertising space you may sell. The customary size of the pages of the model premium list is 6x9 inches. Your local printer should be consulted and he will be pleased to assist you in preparing a dummy and will submit a price for the printing of same in such lots as may be desired. This estimate should include the furnishing and printing of a sufficient number of envelopes to mail out as many premium lists as you may desire to use. After securing your printer's estimate you can then determine the selling price of advertising by the page, half page and quarter page, establishing a price so that a reasonable profit shall be made for the benefit of your association.

It will also be necessary to secure regulation entry blanks so that one may be sent with each premium list and enough remain on hand to care for contingency. If your show is to be judged by the score card method it will be necessary to secure in advance a sufficient quantity of score cards so that the judge may use one for each entry in your show, and if your show is to be judged by the comparison method it is advisable to secure a number of judges' cards so that a proper record of awards may be made in the record book of the association.

A record book is indispensable. With one of these books it is possible to have a complete record as follows: Name and address of each exhibitor, together with his entry number, class, and sex of each bird, band number, weight, score and all prizes awarded; also a complete financial report of all moneys received for entry fees, as well as moneys paid out for prizes. Such a book will last the average show for years.

It is also necessary to have a small entry card for each specimen, to be attached on the coop. This card should contain the following information: variety, sex, weight, entry number, and band number. This card may be a separate card or made in combination with the score card.

In order to keep a proper record of your door receipts it is advisable to have a sufficient quantity of single admission tickets to care for each day's attendance.

Gummed stickers designating first, second, third awards, etc., can be secured from the secretary of the American Poultry Association and should be used to place on the coops containing the winning birds instead of the actual ribbon, as very often the ribbons become soiled or are lost from the coops.

Award ribbons can be secured from the American Poultry Association. Ribbons should never be placed on the coops by the association, but should be handed by the secretary to the winner of same if he is present in the show. Otherwise, it is best to mail the ribbons together



with the premium check and the award report sheet by first class mail to the exhibitor.

The secretary should purchase a substantial book in which should be kept the minutes of the meetings, together with an accurate system of accounting for all cash received and expended. This book should also contain the official record of the constitution and by-laws.

The secretary should cordially remind the chairman of the committee on special premiums of the fact that it is his duty to have on hand as many of the special premiums as possible at the beginning of the show. They can usually be displayed in some manner to the advantage of the association. In case a few nice silver cups are offered as special prizes it often proves a good advertisement to arrange for their display during the week previous to the show and during a portion of the show period in a well decorated window of one of the leading stores of the city.

It should always be uppermost in the mind of the secretary that he owes a duty to each and every exhibitor. He should extend them every service possible. He should take pride in completing his work as secretary, getting his records in such shape that he can deliver the premium checks, ribbons, and the report of awards to each exhibitor at the earliest date possible.

### SUGGESTIONS TO SUPERINTENDENTS

In order that your exhibit may show to the best advantage, it is advisable that coops shall be placed in the show hall in such a manner that all birds of the same variety shall be exhibited in coops by the side of each other. This expedites the work of the judge and permits the visitors to more easily compare the qualities of the winning birds.

It should be a part of the superintendent's duty, assisted by a disinterested committee, to see that all birds are carefully and correctly weighed and such weights correctly marked on an individual entry tag for each bird, which should be tacked onto the exhibition coop containing the bird. Said tag should also contain the entry and leg band numbers of the fowl. The superintendent should see that all birds are properly fed and watered at least one hour before being weighed. He should properly feed and water all birds during the exhibit and at the expiration of the show should see that all birds are properly fed and all coops provided with ample dry straw just prior to their homeward journey.

He should adopt regular days and hours for the thorough cleaning and rebedding of all exhibits, special care being taken to disturb the birds as little as possible in doing so.

In order that your show hall may be patronized by the best people of your community the superintendent should keep the hall, the floors, and exhibits in a neat, tidy, and sanitary condition and appearance.

Feed all fowls plentifully, but do not overfeed. Sharp grit and oyster shell should be supplied all birds once during the week.

Water the fowls morning and afternoon, care being taken not to slop water onto the floor of the coops. This often causes stained and unsightly plumage.

### HINTS TO OFFICERS IN GENERAL

The "Golden Rule" should be the guide for the officers of every poultry show, club or association. Many good associations are ruined because of a jealous spirit arising. Some sets of officers attempt to run their show solely for their own profit and good. Whenever such is attempted it is a question of only a short time until dissension will result, the members and exhibitors will lose confidence in the management, and an organization which could have accomplished a lot of good for the industry and for the community in which it was located has been wrecked and ruined because of these facts.

We make the following suggestions which should have the careful consideration of all poultry association officers:

Be absolutely on the square with every exhibitor and every one connected with your association.

Be courteous, yet firm when you know you are right. Show no favoritism. Every one must look alike to you when it comes to questions of right or wrong.

Be on the lookout for everything which might add to the attractiveness or popularity of your show.

Be careful about exhibiting your own birds in your own show. In fact, we hardly feel that it is wise for the Secretary or Superintendent to exhibit their birds in a show which they are managing. This wrecks many associations.

Be sure to give the exhibitors in your class, if you should exhibit your birds in your own show, the advantage of every doubt. You should at least never compete for any special prizes in such cases as this. Let the judge award the regular prizes and refuse to compete for the specials and there cannot be much objection to you showing in a small show. But even then there will be someone who will say, "Of course the judge gave them the prizes. The judge knows they have to employ him and he therefore favors the officers."

Never knock on any exhibitor, on his birds, or on the judge. If you cannot say anything complimentary then don't say anything. It is a duty you owe your association and the industry to keep down dissension and criticism. If you see you have made a mistake in the selection of your judge, then profit by it and make a change the following year. Never stir up trouble, but do all you can to keep it down.

Always bear in mind that if a breeder spends an entire year in raising a bird, and he conditions his bird and pays his entry fee that he is entitled to all the favors you can show him. The exhibitors are the ones who make our shows, and we care not whether they enter one bird or a hundred, the show officers should see that a square deal is given each of them.

### HINTS TO EXHIBITORS

We are glad that the general public is gradually getting away from the idea that all people who manifest much interest in poultry raising are "poultry cranks." To make the greatest success of any undertaking, it is necessary to be somewhat of a crank on that subject. Because you love and believe in your business is no discredit to you, but because you do believe in it is no reason why you should make yourself obnoxious, disagreeable, and unreasonable to those about you or to those who disagree with you.

The exhibitor who makes friends for himself and his birds is the one who is willing to overlook some faults in the show management and the judge. Errors will occur in the best and most carefully conducted institutions. Men will differ as to their views. One will like one color and shape, and another will construe the Standard to mean another shape and color. We can never get away from such differences of opinion. The exhibitor must consider these facts and make due allowance for same.

A poultryman raises a chicken; he admired the egg even before it went into the incubator; he admired the hen that laid the egg, and the male that fertilized it. To him the chick looked like it was going to be a prize winner from the time it was hatched. He nursed it along and gave it special attention, and, as it grew and developed, he was blind to its bad points and could see only the good ones. He conditioned the chicken and put it in the show room, and he swelled with pride as he paced up and down the aisle and showed all visitors his chicken which he felt was certain to win the blue. He had magnified the good points in his bird many times and had minimized its defects.

When the judge came along, he was looking for all the defects. He saw many defects and some disqualifications to which the breeder had been blinded. The judge placed the bird where he thought it properly belonged. Oftentimes such disappointed exhibitors become muckrakers and troublemongers. They make accusations against the judge and the show officers and make things very unpleasant for everyone.

An exhibitor seldom makes anything by protesting a decision. Most of our judges are honest, and if you are willing to trust your birds to one's judgment, you should be willing to abide by his decision and make friends for yourself and your flock by being a good loser, even though you feel that you got the worst end of the deal.

As a rule, the amateur's visit to his first poultry show is full of sur-

prises. Generally, he is on the ground early and instead of finding everything in order and the building looking like the pictures he has seen of well-arranged show rooms, he finds everything apparently in great confusion. Birds are arriving, the feed man is looking for a place to unload, exhibition coops are being set up (if the association is to cage the show) or are being arranged for the reception of the birds. The superintendents and assistants are rushing here and there and the secretary is trying to straighten out delayed entries and locate birds that have gone astray, while a dozen other matters that should have been attended to before are now taking up his time and exhausting his patience.

Right here we cannot refrain from saying a word in praise of that much abused person, the secretary, especially the secretary of a small local show, such as our amateur is supposed to be attending. The secretary of a large show has, of course, had experience or he would not be secretary, and that experience enables him to systematize his work so that his assistants can go ahead with the routine clerical work, while he devotes his time to a general supervision, bringing order out of chaos and keeping things running like a well oiled machine. It is the secretary of a small show who is entitled to our sympathy and our praises. Upon him falls the brunt of the whole show. If it fails, he is to blame; if it is a success, someone else claims the credit. He is greeted with, "Mr. Secretary, how about this?" "We thought you were going to do this or that or the other thing." "Why didn't you do this?" "How about this bird?" "This leg band number must be wrong." "My birds are going to be right here by these windows or I don't show." The things he has to contend with would drive an ordinary man distracted. We have yet to find the secretary of a small show who was glad to accept the position a second time.

In the midst of this confusion the amateur, if he follows the instructions given, will have the satisfaction of knowing he has entered his birds correctly, shipped them carefully and has seen that the shipping directions were plainly written or printed. Now he should keep cool and see that his birds are all right and either kept away from the dirt or covered so they will remain in good condition. If they are a trifle light in weight, see that they are given a good feed, and if a little too heavy, see that they are weighed without feeding or mark their coop "Do Not Feed" plainly enough so that the attendant will notice the directions. See that the inside of the exhibition coop is wiped out and be in no hurry to cage or uncover your birds and put them on exhibition. Keep them quiet and keep quiet yourself—be the "dark horse." Just as soon as you begin to show your birds and talk about them, you will find that a crowd will gather and they will want to see and handle your birds and the chances are that the birds will have some feathers broken or will get soiled and dirty, which might mean defeat. Look at the other fellow's birds and let him tell you what fine ones they are and how he is going to sweep the deck, etc., but do not let it discourage you. You are there to learn, and you can learn a whole lot by being an interested bystander for the first day. You may "get next" to some interesting things pertaining to conditioning that you had not thought of before. You will hear all sorts of rumors about this or that exhibitor, the birds he has bought, and a few other things. We have heard it all and found, usually, when the truth was learned that it was like the story of the empty house—there was nothing in it.

On the other hand, the amateur will and should make the acquaintance of men whom it is good to know, men who have been on the job for years and who learned that the secret of success is to use common sense in the care, mating, feeding and raising of the chicks. The amateur will find that such men are in the majority, although one loud talker and kicker will make more noise than all the others put together. But these older and successful breeders will give the amateur a lot of good, sound advice. Visit with such men and you will find yourself well repaid for the visit to the show.

## THE MODERN POULTRY SHOW

The modern poultry show is a big thing. Some business firms are well repaid if they do a business amounting to \$50,000 a year. Our large modern poultry shows do a business that runs well into the thousands and it is all done within the short space of two or three weeks. The amount of money handled and the business done in connection with these shows is really amazing. Hall rent alone at some of these large shows amounts to over \$2,000 a week. Cooping from 2,000 to 2,500 birds costs generally a dollar a head. The feed for that many birds costs quite a sum of money and the help to handle the business costs a great deal. The premiums cost money and the only revenue worth speaking of is the door receipts. A big snow storm at the wrong time can be the means of a large show losing thousands of dollars. The whole work of these large shows is so systematized that it can be handled with dispatch and accuracy.

It was interesting and instructive to watch the setting up of the Kansas City show. The land show had occupied the large hall the preceding week and did not get out until nearly morning of the day the poultry show was to open. Early arrivals found the hall in a state of great disorder. Birds were arriving by the wagon load and coops were being piled up in the hall. The amateur wondered what was the matter and if there really was going to be a poultry show.

A plot of the hall had been prepared by an architect, so the secretary knew just where every booth and every coop was going. Entries had closed two weeks before the opening date, so he knew just how many birds there would be in each class. He knew just how long each row was to be and the number of feet between each row. Knowing these facts, it was a comparatively easy matter to make the allotments for the various classes. A large corps of men were busy setting up the cages, while the business men who were to occupy booths were putting them up. As soon as the entries were closed, the classes were allotted and the exhibitor notified of the number of the coop or coops his birds were to occupy. As soon as the cages were up and numbered, the exhibitors could, if they wished to do so, clean out the cages and prepare them for the reception of their birds. If the exhibitor was not present, the association had experienced men to look after the cooping and to see that the birds were checked into their proper cages. This is why we advised the amateur to see that his cages were wiped out. Birds caged a day or so before the judging begins, especially if placed in a dirty cage, will get soiled by rubbing against the dirty sides of the cage. Remember not to be in a hurry to cage the birds or place them in position the first day, as the judging will not begin until the next morning.

By having things so well planned, order came quickly from seeming chaos and by three in the afternoon the cages were all up and most of the birds in their places. The finishing touches, in the way of decorations, were completed by six o'clock and everything was ready for the judges and the public the following morning. This is no more than can be done by the smaller associations if they will have some system, each man knowing what his work is and doing it; or have someone in charge who understands the work and whose orders will be promptly obeyed.

The modern poultry show is an important institution. There is something more to it than the mere winning of ribbons. None of us are too old to learn and at the poultry shows we see not only the latest and most improved specimens of fowls of the different breeds, but also the appliance and feeds used in raising them. We are glad to note that during recent years poultry associations are paying more attention to institute work. Lectures and talks are given by men who are acknowledged authorities on various subjects. Three days put in at a modern poultry show will teach the observing amateur as much as he can learn in months from books. It is helpful to read poultry literature, but at the poultry show or poultry institute the breeder is brought in contact with the people who know and, as a rule, what they say makes a lasting impression. Many of the talks and lectures are illustrated by pictures and living specimens.

Of course the winning of ribbons is very important to the man who offers stock and eggs for sale, and our best breeders fully realize the value

of winning at our largest shows. We put our birds to the test and the reward of the winner is that he cannot supply the demand for stock and eggs. Were there no poultry shows we would have no way of showing the improvement we are making in the breeding of our birds and the interest in thoroughbred stock would soon diminish, if not die out.

### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Both the exhibitor and the judges no doubt could suggest several improvements in poultry shows, especially in connection with the management of the smaller shows. First, we would mention that of classifying the various breeds and varieties. By that we mean that all the Barred Rocks should be together, all the White Wyandottes together—each kind should be separated from the others. In too many of the smaller shows the various breeds and varieties are all mixed up and the coops of a breed or variety are widely separated in different parts of the hall. Many times visitors coming into a show room are unable to find the winning specimens, and nearly everyone feels a desire to see the winners.

We have judged classes and, after asking the superintendent and clerk if they were all of that class and being answered in the affirmative, have turned in the cards to the secretary, who proceeded to foot them up and book the scores preparatory to hanging the ribbons. It has happened frequently that the secretary, to benefit the exhibitors, has hung up the ribbons before booking the scores, and after getting the ribbons hung on the cages we have found there was a coop or two in some out of the way place that had not been scored. These proved to be the real winners and the changing of the ribbons bitterly disappointed the ones who had thought that they belonged to them. The cause of this trouble, in the majority of cases, is that some local breeder selects a well-lighted place near some window, thinking thus to obtain an advantage. A competitor selects another window and the result is that birds shipped in have to be placed where there is room for them. This is a poor practice. Classify the breeds and varieties so they will all come in a row. If one has a better light than the other, the judge will take those in the poor light to the window so they will get their just dues. When a show is well classified, visitors can look over the particular class in which they are interested and study the winners, as well as the others.

Then there is the weight question. The last edition of the Standard says: "Each specimen at all score-card shows shall be correctly weighed, regardless of circumstances. The practice of allowing a few ounces is expressly forbidden, inasmuch as it works great injustice. It has a harmful influence on the judge, the exhibitor, the local association and the industry at large, and many times deprives prudent and worthy fanciers of prizes rightfully due them." The Standard is right about this matter and the practice of allowing each fowl a quarter of a pound extra should be discouraged, in fact, should not be allowed.

Rules prohibiting the handling of any birds other than your own should be strictly enforced. Many a bird has lost a premium through careless handling, which caused a wing or tail feather to be broken, not intentionally perhaps, but they were broken nevertheless and the bird suffered in consequence.

It is a common thing for local associations to start their catalogues off by saying, "This show is run according to the rules of the American Poultry Association," and then follows a page or two of rules that directly conflict with the rules set forth by the A. P. A. It is all right and in many cases necessary to have some local show rules, but care should be taken that they do not conflict with those of the A. P. A., but in case they do conflict the judge must abide by the A. P. A., but in case of dispute some exhibitor is apt to be greatly dissatisfied.

Another point worthy of mention is the importance of having a good clerk for the judge. A good clerk, one who is quick with the pencil, who makes neat figures and is not so interested in the bird being scored that he cannot pay attention to the card he is filling out, is of incalculable value to a judge.

Judging poultry is work—hard, physical, mental and nervous work—and the exhibitors should be a little careful about crowding around a

judge and asking questions when he is busy with a specimen. Wait until he is through with the birds or class and then ask him all the questions you wish. We know of some of the best natured judges who have been accused of being cranky because they did not have the time to stop to answer questions. The judge's mind must be concentrated upon his work and it is not fair to him nor to the association that employs him to interrupt him.

There is one other thing we should like to see eliminated, and that is the suspicious exhibitor. An association engages a judge and advertises him as being honest. This announcement should be unnecessary as it throws a slur on the preceding judge, who may have been perfectly honest, and if a judge is honest, why is it necessary to announce it? However, if you think best to do so, announce the fact that he is honest, but after doing that, do not treat him from the minute of his arrival as if he were under suspicion. There is nothing more humiliating to a judge when he stops to greet and shake hands with some old acquaintance than to hear some exhibitor say, "He has him fixed all right, you will see that fellow will win."

There are about one hundred and seventy-five licensed judges and we are personally acquainted with perhaps one hundred of them and there is not one of that hundred whom we think would be intentionally dishonest in his work. Judges make mistakes, we all do, but that does not mean that they are dishonest. There is a common saying that when a judge dons his duster he either forgets his friends or he has none. His mind is on his work and any attempt to influence him would be rebuffed and result in failure. If you or your association cannot trust the judge, do not engage him, but if you do engage him, treat him as if he were honest until, at least, you can prove that he is not.

If the competition is close, the prizes many and large, there is nothing that pleases us more while judging than to have some good, light room or have a space barred off near a window and have the cages carried to us. This can only be done at a score-card show, but it has been found very satisfactory and if such arrangements are made before hand the judge and exhibitors will both be satisfied.

The officers of a small show usually exhibit, and this gives rise to more or less trouble. Why should they not be allowed to exhibit? You elect them to office because you trust them and acknowledge their ability. They were made officers of your show, in most cases, because they are prominent and successful breeders. Naturally, they wish to show and should be allowed to show and win if their birds have the quality, without some disgruntled exhibitor accusing them of having won because they were officers of the association. Be fair to yourselves and be fair to your officers and judge. Be sportsmen enough to be good losers or do not exhibit. If you think the judge is crooked, attempt to buy him and you will soon satisfy yourself that you have made two mistakes—one in thinking that he is crooked and the other in tempting him.

## **WHY EVERY FARMER AND POULTRY RAISER SHOULD JOIN THEIR STATE POULTRY ASSOCIATION**

Membership in a state poultry association is of far greater value than anyone realizes. The benefits to the industry, to the state, and to the individual member cannot be fully appreciated.

The object in joining the State Association should not be for the good which you will derive from it, but the main purpose should be to put something into an organization that will unite and build up the industry in which you claim to be interested. If you feel this way about it, the mere 50 cents or \$1.00 annual dues is but a mere trifle to which no one should object. Most of us go to a picture show or cafe or ice cream parlor and soon "blow in" more than the annual dues to the State Poultry Association.

Such organizations as this have been responsible for the Poultry Experiment Station in Missouri and the poultry departments of other states. They have made possible the great state shows, poultry meetings and conventions of various kinds for the education and benefit of the poultry

breeders of the state. A good strong State Association with a membership of several hundred or several thousand can have a great influence in securing state aid for poultry work. In union there is strength, and if the affairs of a state poultry association are rightly handled such an organization can do an untold amount of good.

If you can unite the entire poultry strength of the state in the membership of the State Association, it is possible to place its pure-bred poultry and its market poultry products far in the lead of other states which do not so organize.

You can publish the fact on your literature and letterheads that you are a member of the State Association. It gives you a standing which you could not have without such membership. Your name, address and the variety of poultry you breed are published in the annual year book. You are placed in a position to secure all bulletins, circulars and literature issued by the association or the State Experimental Station. Every poultry raiser, whether it be on a large or small scale, should become a member of his own State Poultry Association, because it is for his own interest and progress, for the benefit of the state, and such an organization is for the benefit and uplift of the industry in general.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS VERY BENEFICIAL

The best poultry associations and those which derive the most benefit from their organization are, as a rule, those which have monthly meetings and at such meetings discuss practical questions, have demonstrations in selection and judging of poultry, caponizing, and other work of a practical and educational value. We cannot too strongly impress upon any association the importance of this class of work. Arrange for special speakers to appear on your program occasionally.

It is to be hoped that the programs given here can be used to some extent, although each organization should alter them to suit local conditions.

The best of such papers should be submitted to the local newspapers, farm papers and poultry journals for publication. In that way your association will get a lot of free advertising, and much good will be done in your community as a result of monthly meetings.

We suggest the following list of subjects for each month. Each association may select and assign enough of the different subjects to different members so that a full and interesting program is assured. We recommend that you vary the program each month to suit your local conditions.

#### Program for January

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Business Meeting.           | 8 Double Mating.   |
| 2 Instrumental Music.         | 9 Preparing for Incubation.                                  |
| 3 How to Improve the Flock.   | -----  |
| -----                         | 10 Canker, Its Causes and Remedy.                            |
| 4 Buying the Male Bird.       | -----  |
| 5 Inbreeding and the Results. | 11 General Discussion.                                       |
| -----                         | -----  |
| 6 Line Breeding.              | 12 Demonstration in Selection and Judging, using live birds. |
| -----                         | -----  |
| 7 Male Quartette.             | 13 Music.  |
| -----                         |  |

### Program for February

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Business Meeting.               | 8 Packing Hatching Eggs for    |
| 2 Orchestra.                      | Shipment.                      |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 3 Fertilization of an Egg.        | 9 Running the Incubator.       |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 4 Keeping Eggs for Incubation.    | 10 Recitation.                 |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 5 Selection of Eggs for Hatching. | 11 Chicks Dying in the Shell,  |
| -----                             | Causes and Remedy.             |
| 6 Proper Time for Hatching.       | 12 Feeding the Breeding Stock. |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 7 Vocal Solo.                     | 13 General Discussion.         |
| -----                             | 14 Music.                      |

### Program for March

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Business Meeting.             | 9 Drinking Fountains for Baby |
| 2 Violin Solo.                  | Chicks.                       |
| -----                           | -----                         |
| 3 Brooding.                     | 10 Selling Day-Old Chicks.    |
| 4 Feeding the Baby Chick.       | -----                         |
| -----                           | 11 Song by the Boys and Girls |
| 5 Hatching with Hens.           | of the Club.                  |
| -----                           | -----                         |
| 6 Baby Chick Diseases and       | 12 Pedigreeing Chicks.        |
| Remedies.                       | -----                         |
| -----                           | 13 Raising Ducks for Profit.  |
| 7 Vocal Duet.                   | -----                         |
| -----                           | 14 General Discussion.        |
| 8 Feed Hoppers for Baby Chicks. | 15 Orchestra.                 |
| -----                           | -----                         |

### Program for April

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Business Meeting.               | 8 Range for Growing Stock.     |
| 2 Vocal Solo.                     | -----                          |
| -----                             | 9 Culling Young Stock.         |
| 3 Value of Grit and Lime.         | -----                          |
| -----                             | 10 Selling Broilers.           |
| 4 Keeping Old and Young Separate. | -----                          |
| -----                             | 11 How Boys and Girls Can Help |
| 5 Hopper Feeding.                 | Raise Poultry.                 |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 6 Watering Chicks.                | 12 How Late to Hatch Chickens. |
| -----                             | -----                          |
| 7 Best Method of Feeding,         | 13 Raising Turkeys.            |
| Brooding and Caring for           | -----                          |
| Young Chicks and Growing          | 14 General Discussion.         |
| Stock.                            | 15 Music.                      |
| -----                             | -----                          |

### Program for May

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Business Meeting.            | 6 Late Hatched Chicks.       |
| 2 Piano Duet.                  | -----                        |
| -----                          | 7 Some Good Methods of Rid-  |
| 3 Recitation.                  | ding Mature Fowls of Lice.   |
| -----                          | -----                        |
| 4 Swat the Rooster, or Selling | 8 Vocal Solo.                |
| Infertile Eggs.                | 9 The Value of Guinea Fowls. |
| -----                          | -----                        |
| 5 When to sell Surplus Breed-  | 10 Management of the Poultry |
| ers.                           | Yard in Summer.              |
| -----                          | -----                        |



- 11 The Stolen Nest.
- 12 Demonstration in Candling and Grading Eggs.

- 13 General Discussion.

- 14 Orchestra.

#### Program for June

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Orchestra.
- 
- 3 Care of Summer Eggs.
- 
- 4 Selling the Cockerels and Culls.
- 
- 5 Summer Roosting Quarters for Poultry.
- 
- 6 The Broody Hen.
- 
- 7 Special Music.
- 

- 8 Candling Eggs.
- 
- 9 Buying Eggs on a Quality Basis.
- 
- 10 In What Ways Can our Members Co-operate
- 
- 11 Capons for the Home.
- 
- 12 Demonstration in Caponizing.
- 
- 13 General Discussion.
- 
- 14 Quartette.

#### Program for July

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Music.
- 3 Care of the Growing Stock.
- 
- 4 Importance of Shade.
- 
- 5 How to Improve the Quality of Eggs.
- 
- 6 The Farmer's Responsibility with Eggs.
- 
- 7 Vocal Music.
- 
- 8 The Merchant's Responsibility with Eggs.
- 

- 9 Eggs and Cold Storage.
- 
- 10 Recitation.
- 
- 11 Judging Eggs by the Score Card.
- 
- 12 Crop Bound, Causes and Remedy.
- 
- 13 Scaly Leg, Causes and Remedy.
- 
- 14 General Discussion.
- 
- 15 Orchestra.

#### Program for August

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Vocal Duet.
- 
- 3 Selecting and Conditioning Birds for the Fall Fair.
- 
- 4 Comparison Judging.
- 
- 5 Selecting Cockerels for Breeders.
- 
- 6 Training Young Stock to the Roost.
- 

- 7 Instrumental Solo.
- 
- 8 Crowding Young Stock.
- 
- 9 Limberneck.
- 
- 10 Raising Geese.
- 
- 11 Effects of an Empty Water Pan.
- 
- 12 General Discussion.
- 
- 13 Appropriate Song by the Entire Membership.

#### Program for September

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Orchestra.
- 
- 3 Preparing for the Molt.
- 
- 4 How the Exhibitor Can Help Make a Show.
- 

- 5 Things to Avoid in the Show-room.
- 
- 6 Meat Food in Summer.
- 
- 7 Ladies' Quartette.
- 
- 8 Separating the Sexes.
-

- 9 Going Light.
- 10 Recitation.
- 11 The Fall-Hatched Chick.

- 12 Demonstration.
- 13 General Discussion.
- 14 Music.

#### Program for October

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Piano Solo.
- 3 Feed and Care of Molting Fowls.
- 4 Molting of Early Hatched Pullets.
- 5 Poultry Raising as a Side Line to Farming.
- 6 Work Children can do with Poultry.

- 7 Male Quartette.
- 8 How to Prepare and Get Winter Eggs.
- 9 The Value of Eggs and their Uses.
- 10 Sowing Pasture for Green Food.
- 11 Prevention and Cure of Chicken Pox.
- 12 General Discussion.
- 13 Orchestra.

#### Program for November

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Orchestra.
- 3 The Poultry House.
- 4 Arrangement of Interior.
- 5 Ventilation and Lighting.
- 6 Preparing for the Show Room.
- 7 Vocal Duet.

- 8 How to Produce Early Laying Pullets.
- 9 Number of Fowls to be Kept Through Winter.
- 10 How to Prevent Frozen Combs.
- 11 Feed Supply for Winter.
- 12 Colds, How to Prevent and Cure Them.
- 13 General Discussion.
- 14 Special Music.

#### Program for December

- 1 Business Meeting.
- 2 Special Music.
- 3 Score Card Judging.
- 4 Feeding for Winter Eggs.
- 5 Balancing the Ration for Egg Production.
- 6 Marketing Eggs.
- 7 Vocal Solo.

- 8 Water for Fowls in Winter.
- 9 Caring for the Flock on Snowy Days.
- 10 Recitation.
- 11 Causes, Prevention and Cure of Roup.
- 12 Demonstration.
- 13 General Discussion.
- 14 Orchestra.

## Questions for Lesson No. 37

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1. For what reasons are the farmer's produce discounted in the market?
2. Discuss the method of selling eggs through the school.
3. What is an Egg Circle and how would you proceed to organize one?
4. Is it necessary to always form a new organization for the purpose of handling poultry products in co-operation?
5. Can we depend on the country merchant, as a rule, to improve the prices of poultry products for us?
6. Should there be a signed agreement made by the members?
7. How should the receipt forms be arranged?
8. What influence do Egg Circles have on production during the winter season?
9. What are the benefits to be derived from the organization of Poultry Show Associations and how would you proceed to organize such an association?
10. Why is it important to enlist the assistance of business men in such enterprises and what are the benefits to be derived from monthly meetings?



# Success or Failure---Which Shall It Be?

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T. E. QUISENBERRY, President

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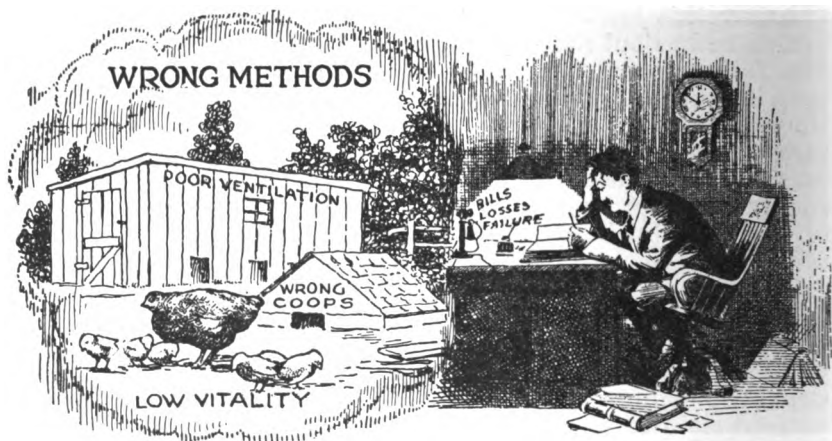
This is a question which every poultryman would like to have result in the affirmative. That a comfortable living and some money can be made from poultry farming as a business or as a side line, there is no doubt. Hundreds are doing it, and many of them are using crude methods and out-of-date equipment. But not every poultry raiser who knows how and who uses up-to-date equipment is going to succeed. A man may be an expert at incubation, he may understand it thoroughly, but he is not going to get a 100 per cent hatch in every case, and in many cases his hatch will be an absolute failure, no matter how extensive his knowledge of incubation. Outside elements, over which he has but little, if any control, might enter in and cause the failure of any expert incubator man in some cases. A man might be a great banker and a wonderful financier and understand the banking business thoroughly, and yet if such a man was not located in a city or a section of the city where there was some business he would not make a success. Outside elements or other influences might, and do enter into the affairs of the best business men sometimes, and cause their failure. Men in all lines of business and in all professions sometimes fail. Then, too, we cannot expect every man or woman who enters the field of poultry culture to succeed in every case. We must all admit, however, that the person who has studied and tried to fit and prepare himself with a storehouse of useful and dependable information is much better prepared and is much more certain of success than one who goes at it with no knowledge or training whatever. It is as absolutely necessary to use common sense and good business judgment if you are to raise poultry successfully, as it is to use those qualities in any other business.

In this course in poultry husbandry you have now satisfactorily studied each lesson and passed each examination down to the present. There are no further examinations or questions to be answered. We are about to give you our parting advice as far as the printed lessons are concerned. We hope and expect to hear from you from time to time, and we desire to aid you in all the problems which may confront you in your efforts to raise poultry successfully. In fact we hope our relations with you and the real instruction which you are to receive from this School have just fairly begun. You should now begin to put the course into practice, if you have not already done so, and we will be glad to help you over the rough places, and use our best endeavor to insure your success in poultry work and to aid you in avoiding

failure. So we want you to consider this lesson more as a personal letter of parting advice and warning than as a stereotyped scientific lesson.

## What Became of the Profits?

The man who enters the poultry business with a lack of knowledge of same, who has to proceed blindly or by guess, and who has to experiment for himself, would have been far better off, as a rule, had he never started in the first place. The time is certain to come when he will tear his hair and work until the wee hours of the morning and when he will be absolutely disgusted and discouraged. Haphazard methods, guess work, carelessness and a lack of love for poultry or the lack of an actual knowledge

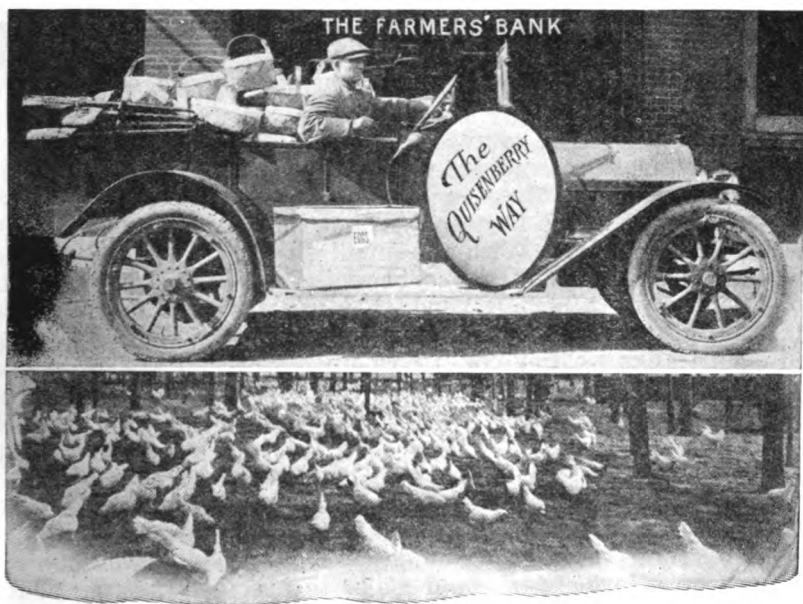


### WHAT BECAME OF THE PROFITS?

of the business is certain to lead to failure. A lavish expenditure of money is not necessary. "Starting right and keeping right" is the one key that unlocks the success box. Many persons, from an apparently poor beginning, but with a knowledge of the business, have won distinction and wealth, while others with gilded houses and canopied runs, stocked with breeding birds that cost fabulous sums have made utter failures. No person will ever reap beyond ordinary success in the Poultry Business without possessing a clear knowledge of the demands, the wants, the desires and the necessities of their flock. These can be acquired by sad experiences and costly experiments, but it is far better, much cheaper, more satisfactory, safer and saner to acquire this knowledge from some one who knows.

# The Man Who Knows

The man who goes into his poultry house with one bucket of Feed and two buckets of Knowledge and Training is the man who succeeds. It is simply a leap in the dark that is almost certain to lead to positive loss and failure to attempt poultry raising without this knowledge and training. In every business, in every calling, in every profession, in every walk of life, Knowledge is Power. There is no business in the world that will bring greater pleasure or more profit in proportion to the amount invested than will the poultry business, providing the man who undertakes it has laid a solid foundation and built from a storehouse of infor-



## THE MAN WHO KNOWS

mation. Every success in the poultry business can be traced to the man behind the flock. You will find that he has been a close student of his business; he has not been afraid of work; and he has given constant thought and attention to details and has proceeded with a definite object in view. No obstacle is too big for such a man to overcome and success eventually crowns the efforts of all such poultrymen. The object of this Course in Poultry Husbandry has been to furnish information and offer true and tried methods, which enable thousands of our students to succeed, while others fail. Our motto is, "Help A. P. S. Students to Succeed."

## LARGE PROPOSITIONS REQUIRE LARGE ABILITY

Many people get the idea that because they raise 100 to 500 chickens each year and because they have very little loss, that they are expert poultrymen. Most of these people have plenty of range for their poultry. The chicks are not so crowded but what they do well and make part of their own living. There are not so many chickens in this size flock but what the one raising them has plenty of time for details and they do not have to depend upon hired help, who are more or less disinterested and inexperienced. Therefore, they succeed wonderfully well and make a big profit per hen on these small flocks. They thus get the idea that if they can do this well with 100 to 500, that they could soon become wealthy if they had a larger place, and could devote all their time to the business and hire extra help so that they might keep from 5,000 to 20,000 laying hens and raise that many chicks each year. Right here is where failure comes in many cases. There is as much difference in raising 100 to 500 chickens successfully and raising numbers running from 5,000 to 20,000 as there is between day and night.

In the latter case, you will be obliged to depend upon others for a large part of the outside work and actual labor of breeding, incubation, brooding, feeding and caring for your flock. This help will not take the same pains and the same interest in the details that you did. With the small flocks, your table scraps and many little things of that sort counted more than you thought. Your poultry were not crowded, they had free range and made a part of their own living from bugs, worms, grass, sprouts, roots and such things as they could pick up. Now you are crowded; it is strictly a commercial proposition; everything must be bought and fed; you must depend upon hired labor and it must be paid for from the proceeds; the hens and the capacity of the farm must be pushed to the limit. What shall the harvest be?

We have seen many people raise 100 to 500 chickens each year and do it with ease and make a handsome profit. And we have seen these same people undertake to raise a few thousand chickens on a larger farm and make an absolute failure. Here again you can see the need of a thorough training and an accurate knowledge of the business if you are to succeed in a large way. You take our advice and make certain of "Safety First."

## POULTRY FARMING BY PROXY IS DANGEROUS

A great many men with some wealth conceive the idea that there is big money in the poultry business. They know nothing about the business themselves and they employ someone who comes highly recommended, but who truthfully knows little or nothing about raising chickens in a large way. The owner and financial backer of the proposition knows nothing about how to equip, arrange, or handle his proposition so as to make money from it. His trusted employee knows but little more, in far too



many cases, and too often has some pet theories and hobbies of his own that he wants to try out at the other fellow's expense. Besides, you seldom find a hired man who will take the same interest in such a business and be as careful of the little details and the leaks as would the owner himself if he were running his own business. Therefore, we say that it seldom pays and is a dangerous proposition to operate a poultry farm by proxy.

It is advisable in all such cases as this to see that the manager and every one employed on the place is competent, is industrious, and has a thorough knowledge of the business. We would require them to take a course in some College of Agriculture, or let them take a correspondence course in poultry husbandry along with their work. We would discourage any one from investing a dollar in a poultry farm if they did not expect to operate it themselves, or require their employees to complete some reliable course in poultry husbandry, or show some evidence of their knowledge and ability, outside of their own word of mouth and ordinary recommendations. Capital entrusted to the right sort of men, who are thoroughly equipped, can be made to produce a nice profit in the poultry business the same as in any other business. But capital alone, in the hands of an inexperienced and unequipped would-be-poultryman, is practically as good as lost when it is invested in such an enterprise. These are facts worthy of consideration.

## INDUSTRY NECESSARY TO SUCCESS

In order to succeed it is necessary to work early and late practically every season of the year. On the average farm most of the work with poultry comes early in the morning and late each evening; during the middle of the day there is not a great deal of compulsory work. But it is necessary to do a certain amount of work with poultry seven days in the week and 365 days in the year. The feeding and watering and gathering of the eggs must be done and should not be neglected. While this is all true, yet it is a pleasant and fascinating work to the average person, and especially to those who love poultry. It is not hard work, but it is constant. The man who succeeds with poultry is the man who will see that his fowls are not neglected, no matter what the hour may be. The successful man is often the one who goes through his houses occasionally at night with a lantern. There is not as much of this sort of thing as people imagine and it is not necessary to sit up at night with incubators and all that sort of tommy-rot which we hear so much about, but the point we are trying to make is that the successful man is the one who will look after his business night and day, or whenever it requires his attention. This applies to the poultry business. There are certain details which must be looked after no matter what may be the hours or what may be the weather conditions.

Poultry raising is not a get-rich-quick business. It is a mistaken idea that all you have to do is to throw out any old kind of feed and gather up high priced eggs. It is a fascinating, healthful

and pleasant occupation, but it is a business which requires constant attention to details and is not the snap which some people picture it to be. There is nothing worth while which does not require some labor.

### THE MAN BEHIND THE FLOCK

Just as the man behind the gun who hits or misses the mark, just so is the man behind the flock who can make or unmake the best calculated plans for poultry raising. You very often find people who will tell you that there is absolutely nothing in the poultry business, that they have tried it only to find that there is no money in it, and that they had nothing to show for their money and labor invested, except losses. I am sure that they are right, but, if you will make a careful analysis of their failure, you will find that in 90 per cent of the cases the man or woman was to blame.

For every failure in the business, I will make the prediction that it can be directly traced to a lack of knowledge and attention to details, haphazard methods, carelessness; or, probably, a lack of actual business knowledge, or perhaps a lack of love for poultry.

It is the man who makes his flock and not the flock that makes the man. The flock will make the man provided he will give constant thought and attention to details and proceed with his work with a definite object in view. Every success in the poultry business can be traced to the "man behind the flock." The influence of the "man behind the flock" must be shown in the business methods employed, as well as in the care and management of his flock. Therefore, please bear this thought in mind, that if you fail it is generally your own fault and that the influence of the "man behind the flock" is really the one big thing in the business. Success is directly traceable to the love of poultry and to a study of tested methods of others who have reaped a reward for their enterprise. Be wide awake to anything that will solve your poultry problems, be those problems a baffling disease, or the feeding and care of the flock to the minutest detail.

### PEP AND COMMON SENSE BRING RESULTS

"When some bright mind solves the problem of why ninety-three per cent of the people who engage in business pursuits fail; when the question is settled why only ten per cent of the people own their own homes; when the question of why the very rich are growing richer and the very poor are growing poorer has been unraveled; when we understand why millions go half nourished while the land is panting with a plenitude; when a myriad of mysteries like these are cleared away, then will it be known why so many persons who engage in the poultry business fail and so very few succeed.

"The successful poultry raiser need not have a college education or be informed on the arts or the crafts, though he would be all the better off if he possessed these accomplishments, but

he must have adaptability for the business. He must understand the wants and the desires of his flocks, and care for them as he does for his children by providing for them in fair and foul weather. If he does not want to do these things—if he wants his flock to ‘just grow’—he had better save his money, time and a disappointment, for fail he will if any department of the business is neglected.

“If a man or woman desires to ‘kill a little time’ or ‘just fool with a few chickens’ they should not be classed as being in the ‘poultry business.’ They are not. They belong to that large class that really and truly ‘kill time’ and ‘fool with chickens,’ yet the indiscriminating public regard them as such and when one of them ‘fails’ another failure in the poultry business is checked up. Fortunately, however, the world is becoming a little more discriminating and is not so seriously considering the person who is ‘killing time’ and ‘fooling around.’

“To succeed in the poultry business means the same close application of business principles and the same wise expenditure of capital that is applied to any other calling, whether it be among the professions, tradesmen or artisans. A lavish expenditure of money is not necessary. Starting right is one of the keys that unlocks the success box, this theme being too big a subject to discuss here. Many persons from an apparently poor beginning have won distinction and wealth, while others with gilded houses and canopied runs stocked with breeding pens that cost fabulous sums have made utter failures. Procrastination and vermin will route the finest hennery on the continent, while perseverance, some money, much patience and cleanliness will bring a lowly start to a lofty pinnacle. A doctor will not be much of a success unless he understands the science of medicine, has patience and knows how to apply the remedies to the disease. A merchant, though he occupies the best located building in his town, will not grow rich unless he has the goods to sell which the people want, understands the art of securing customers and has sufficient executive force to hold his trade when once established. An emery wheel will never grind a scythe unless there is driving and guiding power back of it. No person will ever reach beyond ordinary success in the poultry business without possessing clear knowledge of the demands, the wants, the desires, the necessities, of their flocks. The breeder should understand the anatomy of the fowl, their natural habits, and should study their dispositions. These can be acquired by sad experience, observation, reading and studying.

“Naturally a ‘bird of the field,’ flocks of poultry are now confined in small houses and short runs. From liberty and freedom they are brought to close quarters. From securing much of their own food by roaming the neighborhood the best poultry of today have their every want supplied. From laying her eggs under the barn in the straw stack, or in the hay loft, Bidy is now trapneste. From roosting under the shed or in the trees she now sleeps on an easy perch in a comfortable house. With the incubator and the brooder she is saved the time and care, the

vicissitudes of hatching and rearing the young. Passing from the natural to much that is artificial the hen has grown in productiveness, in weight, in value and in appearance. Government statistics say the average hen in America lays 80 eggs in a year. The successful poultryman would chop the head off of any hen that will not produce 115 eggs in a year. In a contest lasting through a year a hen confined with four other hens in a small house on a small run laid 281 eggs. In 82 consecutive days she laid 82 eggs and she sold—actually sold—for \$800.00 cash. And she was worth every cent of the price. The man who produced her is 'in' the 'poultry business.' He is not 'killing time' or 'fooling with a few chickens.' He has brains and ability, and is using them just as does the manager of the great department store. The lack of application, the want of discernment, the failure to see what is going on before you, the lack of power to learn by experience, gives an insight into many of the causes why multitudes fail to make money raising poultry—and making money is the mark of success. In every business, in every calling, in every profession, in all the walks of life this is true.

"Every year the poultry industry increases in volume and in wealth. Experiment stations throughout the country are paying as much attention to the proper raising of fowls as they are to the proper production of corn. It is not the intent to place either industry on a 'scientific' basis, but rather on common sense ground—to try to get the people to see that they are wasting time, money, energy—their very lives—in producing inferior products when a superior stock and grain are easier to handle and are what the people demand, saying nothing of the profits accruing therefrom.

"Put into the poultry business the same tact and talent that the business man puts into his merchandising and the same results will follow. There will always be the 'big' store in the twenty story sky scraper. There will always be the 'country' store at the cross roads. Both supply a want. There is the great middle ground in which all can stand and where all but the negligent can succeed. There will always be the vermin infested hen and she will always sell to the huckster at the lowest price, while the hen bred for usefulness will be on dress parade in the show ring, she will be housed and fed the best, her eggs, her progeny and herself will attract wide attention and she will sell for the high price."

## REASONS WHY SOME FAIL

Lack of attention to detail is vital in poultry raising. You could not expect to get the most out of any business in which you might engage, if you did not give it your very best thought and attention. I do not know of any business or industry that will run itself and insure a profit to the owner without the care or oversight of some person who understands how to manage it. The poultry business is no exception to the rule. The details of

the work must be attended to. It is an easy matter to drift into the rut of neglect. One neglect leads to another, and it won't be long until you will find that success is gradually slipping from you, and that your work will be so piled up that it will be impossible for you to get from under the load which you have allowed to accumulate. You must care for every part of the work, and give this care when it is most needed. Be prompt.

The causes of failure are many. Allowing the poultry houses to become filthy, or allowing the droppings to accumulate either in the poultry houses or in the coops occupied by the young chicks, is certain to lead to trouble. These are places where disease and lice will flourish, and, if you are to succeed, it is necessary to keep them out of your flock. Proper methods of care and cleanliness will enable you to do this. You had better give a little extra attention from day to day and keep the fowls in good condition rather than to allow something like this to get a start and then spend a great deal of time and money in trying to eliminate it.

Many failures are due to a lack of sufficient knowledge of the business which make it impossible to carry out the work to the best advantage at all times. You must learn the business. The one who does not thoroughly understand the work and suffers some losses has more in his favor than the one who does understand it and through neglect allows a loss to occur.

These small details if neglected and allowed to accumulate will lead to loss and often to failure. Good feed may fail to bring the proper results if the fowls lack a supply of grit, or a lack of grit may lead to digestive disorders that will result in diseases, deaths and losses. Lack of water will cut down the egg yield. Grit and water do not cost much and many consider them of small importance, yet the lack of them may upset your whole plans. Lack of pure, fresh water, green food, protection from enemies and animals, and many other small things might be responsible for failure. The wise poultryman is the one who will keep on the lookout for these small details.

## EASY TO FIGURE PROFITS

There are perhaps but few businesses where it is so easy to take a pencil and paper and make a millionaire out of yourself quicker than to figure the profits to be derived from poultry, and you can start with only one hen at that, but in spite of the fact that it is so easy to figure the profits and that it shows such glowing prospects we would not advise any one to engage in this business who is looking for a "get rich quick" scheme, for few people of that sort make a success of anything.

The country over is dotted with elaborate poultry plants which have been constructed by just such people at great expense, but which can be bought, in many cases, at junk prices. These are usually pet theories worked out by successful city business men who get the idea that anybody could raise chickens. These people began at the top and worked down, instead of beginning and laying a foundation such as you have done by taking this

course and getting some experience. Knowledge and training—safe and sane methods—are absolutely essential to one's success, and it is best to begin at the bottom and build up.

It is a business that has its ups and downs. It has its profits and its losses like any other business. The whole thing centers on the one point of bringing poultry keeping down to a matter of business enterprise and common sense.

Any one who is looking for a soft job had better not attempt to raise poultry. There is work, rain or shine, 365 days in the year. The amount of success in "dollars and sense" is in a direct ratio to the number of birds and the area of space devoted to their keeping, as the comparative degree of success with a small or large flock in the back yard or on larger space varies but little, providing you know and apply correct methods.

The variety of birds kept makes but little material difference. There is need of the same thoughtful attention and watchful care in the keeping of a small flock as is necessary on any of the large poultry farms.

Short cuts, schemes and "isms" haven't any more place in poultry keeping than in any other commercial pursuit. A systematic arrangement of details and a regularity of routine, coupled with cleanliness and perseverance will pay in poultry keeping as well as in other businesses.

## STUDY SUCCESSES AS WELL AS FAILURES

Those who know of failures in the poultry business might profit thereby and become wiser if they were to take the time to investigate the cause of such failures. If such plants are within a reasonable distance of you it would pay you to visit them and try to profit by their mistakes. If you know of any chicken business that is paying in or near your community where you might gain a store of information, if it is possible you should visit such a place and make personal observations. You should at all times seek the very best information that it is possible for you to get. Make investigations and examinations. Size up different poultrymen and their farms and make deductions that you can apply in your own business. If once started, stick to the business through thick and thin and do not become discouraged when a few things go wrong.

## UNREASONABLE RESULTS EXPECTED

I do not know of any business where such impossible results are anticipated and demanded as we often find by the average man who speaks of this business or by many who contemplate engaging in poultry raising.

One man said, "Well, it is a nice clean business, not much work, you are your own boss, etc. If I could be assured that I could make \$5,000 a year at it, I would not hesitate a moment

in making a start." No, neither would any one else. Where is the man who can step into any business and with a limited capital be guaranteed a net income of \$5,000 a year? The man who made the statement could not command one-fifth of that salary and really earn the money. Such people as this often enter the poultry business and then blame the business because of their failure. You will note that he stated that not much work was required. This is another mistaken idea that many have, and when they get into the business they find that they were disappointed and they soon become discouraged and finally quit.

"Can you insure me against failure," asked another individual. Is there any business in the world that guarantees one's success? Why, then, expect the poultry business to insure you against failure? There is a good margin of profit to those who have pluck and grit, who have knowledge and business sense and who will properly apply same. The speculator is generally content with a 10 per cent dividend but the man who invests in poultry expects far more, as a rule.

There is still another class, who have been doing indoor work and have poor health, and whom the doctor has advised to get some outdoor occupation. In nine cases out of ten such men pick out the poultry business, "as the work is light and the investment small." Their supply of available cash is very limited and their store of knowledge is less. What is the inevitable result of such undertakings? Failure is plainly written upon the face of them. There is a reasonable profit in the business to even this class, and often-times their health is restored by undertaking poultry work and, in such cases, it seems to me that restored health is worth all that money can buy, and is a fortune within itself, and even if this class suffered a slight loss they ought to feel well repaid for having undertaken the poultry business.

There are others who have no money but would like to lease or buy an established poultry farm, if the owner is willing to sell or lease the place, on condition that the money come out of the profits realized on the farm. Such chances are as scarce as hen's teeth, and in most cases a man would not succeed even if he were given the opportunity.

There is still another class who have failed at every other sort of business in which they ever engaged, yet who feel that they can make a howling success in raising poultry.

There are scores of other men who are looking for jobs on poultry farms that want to learn the business and expect to be paid a salary while doing it. They want to learn at the other fellow's expense. In other words, they expect such a large salary that they really want you to teach them how to make a living and also pay them for the privilege of being taught. This is a splendid way for beginners to learn the business, but during that period they ought to be content with a small wage and ought to apply themselves so as to make their services really of some value to the man or farm for which they are working.

## LOCATION

In the first place, a suitable location should be sought. By suitable location, we not only mean a piece of land that is suited for raising poultry and producing eggs, but so located that you will have a demand and a market for all that you produce and at a good price, a price that will insure you a profit above the cost of production. What profit would there be in any business, if you were so far from a railroad or so far from a good market that the transportation charges would eat up all your profits? Many great coal fields and rich minerals of various kinds remain undeveloped today because they are so far from a market that it is not profitable to mine them.

If a poultryman selects a location where he is so far from market that his product deteriorates before it reaches the consumer, or so far that the transportation charges exceed the value of the product, he is handicapping himself at the very beginning and makes his chances of failure greater than they would otherwise be. Do not get too far from market. Do not get located at such a point that your eggs and poultry will be compelled to be transferred several times en route. Try to locate where there is a demand for your produce at good prices.

Yet a good location has also to do with the kind of soil and the lay of the land. You may be near a good market, and still ruin your chances of success by making a poor selection of land. We do not care how favorable other conditions may be, many failures are made certain before a single building is erected or a head of stock is put on the farm. There are thousands of failures due to this one fault. You cannot be too particular about this one thing. With a good location, you are in a fair way to overcome many other mistakes which you are certain to make. But with a poor location, it is almost impossible to succeed, no matter how good your methods may be.

We recently visited a farm that was about to fail. They had a very flat piece of bottom land on the banks of a stream, on which they had erected all their poultry houses. There was always a fog hovering over the place. The atmosphere was damp and cold, and there was no air drainage. The result was that colds and roup put this man out of business. Air drainage is just as important as water drainage. This same man had 200 acres of fine land suitable for poultry raising just adjoining this. He had simply made a mistake in the selection of a location for his poultry buildings and yards. The trouble and expense, the loss of birds, the extra labor required in doctoring sick fowls, and the decrease in egg production, caused by the birds being out of condition and feeling uncomfortable because of the atmosphere and location in which they were living, over-balanced all the benefits of good equipment which the man had, and it simply put him out of business. A mistake of this sort, made at the very beginning of your career as a poultryman, would more than likely prove fatal, in spite of the fact that your knowledge of the



poultry business might be the very best as far as methods and other factors were concerned. A few dollars spent in finding a suitable location may save you hundreds and even thousands later on.

By a suitable location, we mean land that has good surface drainage and air drainage. We mean soil that is sandy or gravelly, or a rich black loam. We warn you against cold, damp clay land. Get up on the hillside, or on a spot that is dry and at least as high as most of the country surrounding it. Try to select a location where your houses can face the sun, at least a portion of the day, and where your fowls will be protected from the hard winds, if your country is subjected to such. Avoid any location where the land is sour or easily becomes sour, and where the land is covered with a green scum or moss. Avoid marshy land. Select a porous soil.

On account of the soils and climates of the different states varying so, it is impossible to state just how many hens can be or should be kept on an acre of ground. In certain sections of California, where the climate is dry and the soil dry and sandy, 1,000 or more hens can be kept on an acre of ground; but in most sections of many other states, where there is considerable cold, damp, clay soil, and often continued damp rainy spells, and where the soil is inclined to pack and become sour and diseased, it is not safe to keep more than 200 or 300 hens to the acre. So you can see that much depends upon the soil and the location. Do not handicap yourself by making a bad start.

## HOUSES

Mistakes made in housing poultry are often costly and sometimes fatal. It is not necessary to build elaborate or expensive houses. That is one mistake which is quite common with such persons as those who start out with a lot of money to invest in equipment. The things to be desired in any poultry house are convenience, simplicity, comfort, sanitation, dryness, sunlight, and proper ventilation.

The winter egg yield can be increased or kept at the maximum if the poultry is properly housed and receives proper care. The house plays a very important part and if properly designed and constructed will advance you well along on the road to success in the poultry business. Improper housing is often responsible for many ills and for great mortality.

A good poultry house can scarcely be built for less than an average cost of \$1.00 per bird for the average climate. In no event do we believe a poultryman would be justified in building a house that would cost him more than \$2.00 per bird capacity. The houses should be equipped with labor saving devices. One man must be able to handle a large number of hens if he is to make money in the poultry business. The amount of floor space per hen should be about three square feet for laying stock, and from four square feet up for the breeding stock. The breeding stock should be compelled to take lots of exercise, while the laying

stock require just enough to keep them in good health. It is fertility and hatchability in the eggs that you want in one case and it is eggs and lots of them that is wanted in the case of the laying stock, and these things should be considered when planning and building your houses.

The location of your poultry houses with reference to the other farm buildings is very important. Much valuable time is wasted in passing from house to house, and by being compelled to open a lot of gates and doors. Time and labor are the same as money in the poultry business. A combination of little things like the above are just the difference between profit and loss, between success and failure, on many poultry farms. Build your houses so they will be conveniently located, simple and easy to keep clean, and large enough so that you can keep enough hens in any one house in order that the number of eggs gathered from the flock kept in that house will pay the expense of feed and care, and a reasonable profit besides. If your houses are so arranged and your flocks so small in each house that the average daily egg yield in any one house does not pay the cost of the labor required to make the necessary trips to that house and the cost of feed and care for the flock contained therein, then you are going backward instead of forward with your poultry venture. It is simply a dollar and cents proposition, and the cost of getting about to feed, water, and care for the flock, the expense of cleaning and gathering the eggs, should all be charged up against a house and the flock therein. Each house is simply a unit on which you either make or lose. Therefore, it behooves you to arrange your house so as to save labor in maintaining and operating your farm.

Because of the above reasons, we recommend large houses for flocks of laying hens. Units of about 500 laying hens are best, in our opinion. It requires but little more labor to care for a flock of 500 in one house than it does 200 hens kept in four small houses of 50 hens each. You may get a dozen more eggs per hen in the smaller houses and the death rate may be a trifle less, but the saving in labor more than offsets these items. You will get more high priced winter eggs in the larger houses, because the hens keep warmer in larger flocks. Also, one man can care for 3,000 to 4,000 hens in the larger flocks but he can scarcely care for half that number when kept in small houses widely scattered.

The above refers only to laying hens. We prefer smaller flocks and more range for the breeding stock. In this case, the thing which you are striving for is an abundance of vitality and fertile, hatchable eggs. In order to get these, you can well afford to pay the extra cost of care and labor.

As to the type of house, we still insist that there is nothing which excels the Improved Fool Proof Poultry Houses or the Missouri House, illustrated and described in Lessons 1 to 4. This house is good in all climates, but especially so in cold climates because of the straw loft. When it gets much below zero it is best

to cover the interior of the shutter ventilator with burlap. In cold climates, they must be built more substantial and less open. In warm or mild climates, the ventilators should be made larger, and in very warm climates they can be built with the front entirely open. The principles involved in these houses can be used in every climate, and if you have a reasonable amount of common sense you can alter the plans to meet your local weather conditions. If you are in doubt about anything, do not hesitate to write for instructions.

The best plans for laying houses, we think, are the Improved Fool Proof Poultry House, the Missouri House, Laying House for 1,000 hens, Lesson 1 to 4. The best houses for breeding stock are the colony houses and the Farmer's Fool Proof Poultry House, described in Lessons 1 and 2.

You can use any size window sash that you prefer, but allow about one square foot of glass to every ten square feet of floor space. In the average climate you should have about one square foot of shutter ventilator to every ten square feet of floor space. In the warmer climates use more than this, and in the colder climates tack a thin cloth over the interior of the shutter ventilator in the coldest winter weather if you find it necessary to have additional protection. The windows should all be arranged so as to be opened in summer months.

We think you should use a concrete foundation such as is recommended with the Fool Proof Houses. If you prefer a board floor to concrete we would recommend putting in a concrete foundation and placing iron ventilators in the sides and ends of the foundation to admit ventilation under the floor and at the same time make the floor rat proof. You can lay a double board floor on the concrete foundation if you want it extra good and dry, but in most climates a single floor answers very well. A dirt floor might be used inside of the concrete foundation in some sections, but we prefer either a board floor, constructed as stated above, using a concrete foundation, or else a good concrete floor. Concrete floors must be built in the spring or summer to give them time to become thoroughly seasoned and dried out before winter. Also, provide for plenty of under drainage, or put a string of tiling every six feet just underneath the floor and let it extend from one side of the foundation to the other. The air in passing through will keep the floor perfectly dry.

The average dirt floor is really dangerous. We have seen dozens of poultrymen make absolute failures solely because of dirt floors in their poultry houses. You find an occasional soil and climate where dirt floors are as satisfactory as any, but ordinarily the soil becomes tainted and infested with disease germs, and disease is often spread in this way. We recently saw hundreds of chickens lost in one flock because of dirt floors. One pen became infested with a disease and it spread from pen to pen through the dirt floors. Pursue the safe course by building concrete floors, or wooden floors with concrete foundations as suggested above, or else build cheaper wooden floors without the con-

crete foundation and get them high enough off of the ground so rats will not harbor beneath them.

Very often you can buy a farm with buildings already erected. As to whether or not it is profitable to do this depends upon the location and condition of the place, the arrangement of the buildings, and the kind of soil on which they are erected. Many times such a place can be purchased very reasonable, and by making slight alterations the buildings can be made to conform to the requirements for our Fool Proof Poultry Houses. These points all have a bearing upon your ultimate success or failure.

### WASTED ENERGY

There is a lot of wasted energy on the average poultry farm, because poultry houses, yards, etc., are not properly located. Things are inconvenient, a great deal of unnecessary labor is required in order to do a small amount of work, and, as a result, little is accomplished in comparison to what is really necessary in order to succeed.

On a poultry farm of any size it is advisable to install a water system and pipe the water, or at least locate the water supply so that it will be as convenient to all poultry buildings and yards as possible and as your circumstances will permit.

In constructing poultry houses and equipment, it is well to keep these things in mind. Many farms have so arranged their places that it is not necessary to carry water, even where thousands of birds are raised and kept for laying or breeding purposes. Many have all the water piped right into the houses and it runs continuously, with an overflow pipe to take care of the waste should the receptacle become too full. In other cases they are arranged with an automatic cut-off.

It is vital that you give at least some consideration to the convenient arrangement of your houses, yards, water and feed supply. Cut your labor to the minimum.

### STRAIN MORE IMPORTANT THAN VARIETY

There is no one best variety, but there is a great difference in strains or families. You should select a variety that suits your ideas as to color of egg, size of egg, size of fowl, shape of fowl, and color of plumage. Select a variety from which there will be a demand for hatching eggs and breeding stock as well as eggs and stock for market purposes. In other words, select a variety which has some virtue and which will commend itself to the buying public. Do not select some little, odd variety that you can breed only for fancy purposes and which has no utility value, especially if you expect to make a living from poultry farming.

Whatever you do, do not attempt to keep more than one variety of poultry. This is a rock upon which many flattering poultry ventures have been wrecked. It is a great mistake for the be-

ginner or the average poultryman to attempt to raise more than one variety of poultry. It usually results in failure sooner or later.

After you have carefully selected and determined upon the variety which you wish to breed, stay with it, and do not be flopping around and jumping from one variety to another, but attempt to perfect your own. Use your best endeavor to get a good strain and good blood to begin with. Do not take the owner's word for it, but make inquiry for yourself. Whatever you do, use pure bred poultry of some variety.

## VITALITY LIES AT THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS

At the very foundation of the successful breeding and raising of live stock of any kind, lies vitality. Especially is this true with poultry. The short time that the chick is in the embryonic stage; the quick growth which it makes; the comparative short life of the chicken; the immense amount of food which it consumes, digests and assimilates; and the strain of manufacturing and laying a sufficiently large number of eggs to make that chicken profitable, all tell upon the constitution of the fowl. Thus, unless the poultryman uses his very best breeding stock, uses good judgment in making his matings, and sees that vitality is coursing through every vein, he is certain to suffer more or less loss because of this neglect.

Do not use immature stock. Yearling hens, hens which have laid during one pullet year, are much better breeders than pullets that are from seven to fourteen months old. Many good poultrymen use their best hens until they are four years old. If you find an especially good breeder among either the males or females, you would make a serious mistake by disposing of that fowl at any reasonable price if you expect to stay in the poultry business.

One common fault which is found among poultrymen in all sections is their inability to distinguish high and low vitality, vigor and lack of vigor in fowls. They know when a chicken is near death's door if afflicted with some of the more common diseases, but if it is a fowl with a well marked plumage or a good shaped comb or one possessing some other characteristic which they especially admire, they too often overlook the long snakey head, the sunken eye, the thin breast, and other evidences of weakness and lack of vitality. It will pay any poultryman to give days of careful study when it comes to selecting the stock for his breeding pens. Mistakes here are costly. It means a season's work lost, to say the least, and you may never be able to recover from the effects of mistakes in breeding made in a single season.

A great many poultrymen make the mistake of buying eggs, stock or baby chicks promiscuously and do not know anything about the breeding back of them. No man can afford to take chances like that. It is simply a leap in the dark. You should know something about the breeding back of your stock, their for-

mer good health, their ability to produce a large number of eggs and to fertilize a reasonable per cent of them. Do not take the other fellow's word for this unless he guarantees to back his statements. Raise your own stock, at least the males that head your flock, or else find out something about the class of stock upon which you expect to base your hope of success or failure.

## PREPOTENCY

There is no better method of testing the faculty of prepotency in any male or female than that which has been described in one of our lessons, the Call of the Hen. The real test, of course, is in the results obtained by actual breeding. But it will pay any poultryman to test his breeding stock by the above mentioned method. We believe that it is dependable, and if so, it will be a big factor in your success.

If you find a male or female which is able to transmit its desirable characteristics, such stock should be kept and used just as long as you can improve your flock by using that blood. Some desirable characteristics are dominant in one fowl and recessive in another. The same will be found to be true of undesirable characteristics. The careful breeder and the one who makes real progress in breeding prize winning birds and high laying strains are the ones who give this subject some thought, and who mate their birds accordingly.

To illustrate the recessive and dominant characteristics in certain animals, we quote you from a letter recently received relative to this point:

Holly, Colo., Sept. 6, 1915.

"Mr. E. M. Botsford was for seventeen years with G. W. Lilly's (Pawnee Bill's) Wild West Show. A greater part of that time he was superintendent of the show and had charge of the breeding of buffalo at Pawnee, Okla. He stated that his first experiment was with the breeding of a buffalo bull to a Polled Angus cow. The cow was taken very sick and became bloated at the end of the nine months period, but recovered and delivered the calf at the usual period for buffalo; i. e., eleven months. The heifer calf from this cross was of true buffalo shape, but the color was black as a Polled Angus. This heifer was bred at two years old to a buffalo bull and at nine months was delivered of a calf of true buffalo shape and color. From a number of experiments he found that native cows bred to buffalo bulls delivered calves at the eleven month period, but the cross bred calves when bred to a buffalo bull delivered in nine months in every instance, plainly showing the dominant and recessive qualities of these two animals. I consider the above authentic and thought it might interest you."

Yours truly,

FRANK FORBES.

From the above it will be seen that in the first cross, the shape is dominant and the color is recessive in the buffalo, and the shape is recessive and the color is dominant in the Polled Angus cow. The same peculiar dominant and recessive characteristics will be found in breeding poultry. Some of these add to one's success, others lead to failure. The thing to do is to give your breeding pens and the results more careful study and profit by the experience gained therefrom.

### SELECTING EGG TYPE

Give some attention to the selection of the male and use males from high laying hens, and also use females that are bred from good layers. The same rule applies in trying to breed other desirable qualities into your flock. Use birds bred from birds in which the desired characteristics predominate.

In the varieties that have white ear-lobes, you will find that the best layers are those which have the clearest, whitest ear-lobes. Those which have white lobes that show a yellowish cast are not as good layers as those which have the pearl white lobes. Some are using this test in sorting and selecting their best layers, the yellow lobes indicating poor layers and the pure white lobes indicating good layers.

The best laying hens and pullets, which are representative of varieties having yellow legs and beaks, nearly always lay the color out of their legs and beaks. In other words, the best layers in such varieties have lighter colored legs and beaks than the poor layers of the same varieties, the poorest layers having the yellowest beaks and legs, as a rule. In selecting for egg type do not fail to always consider the facts as we have given them in a previous lesson:

"There is an egg type and a meat type in poultry, just as true as there is a dairy type and a beef type in cattle. We find both of these types in all varieties of poultry. And there is also the intermediate, or dual purpose type. We are not going to attempt to describe these except to say that our best hens are medium sized birds, and, as a rule, are under standard weight. They are late moulters and not so much inclined to broodiness. They have thin pelvic bones; rather high tails; rather narrow skulls, not a masculine head in appearance; large, bright eyes; large combs; long and broad backs, carried much higher at that portion nearest the tail; wide behind, with plenty of space between the point of their breast bone and the point of the pelvic bones; and they must be good feeders, always active and alert. The good laying hens are nearly always somewhat close feathered, not loosely feathered like the Cochins."

### WHY HE HAS SUCCEEDED

The following advice is offered by a poultryman who annually ships thousands of dollars worth of hatching eggs, commercial eggs, breeding and exhibition stock. He uses business meth-

ods of squareness and fair dealing. He tells his own story and leaves no question as to why he has succeeded :

### NEVER ARGUE WITH A CUSTOMER

"We have upward of one thousand customers every year and deal with persons with every possible sort of disposition, but we never have an argument with a customer. Life is too short and there are too many customers. If a customer thinks that he knows more than we do, we do not attempt to disabuse his mind. Ours is a busy life, we have plenty of work and correspondence, and before everything we want peace, and that only comes from satisfied customers. Claims or disputes over small or mis-shaped eggs do not amount to one-hundredth part of the claims about poor hatches. As we set a large number of our own eggs every week we know in a general way about the fertility of our eggs and when they are hatching well. Notwithstanding this we receive claims about every egg being infertile and about five per cent hatches. What has happened to the eggs after they leave us we do not know, but if the same eggs had been incubated at home, good hatches would have resulted.

### DUPLICATE ORDER

"What is done in such cases? Just duplicate the shipment and give a suggestion or two about proper incubation methods and wish the customer a better hatch. Nine times out of ten they do get a better hatch and come back with an additional order. Had we argued the matter with them, a lot of time and energy would have been wasted, we would have attained their ill-will and in addition lost their trade and good word forever. The gist of the whole matter is just this, if a breeder will see to it that his hatching eggs are in good condition and will ship only such eggs as he sets for his own use, the total claims in an entire season will not be more than one per cent, and it does not pay to quarrel with any man or woman over such a small percentage.

### SHIPPING ON APPROVAL

"Just so with shipping fowls on approval. They are sent with the privilege of return and money back if not fully satisfied, if the fowls are returned within 48 hours after arrival. In shipping out 500 fowls last fall and winter under this agreement, I can only remember of four shipments being returned. For some reason or another customers were not satisfied, though we considered we had sent them full value. On return of the birds a check was sent by first mail and the whole matter was dropped from our minds. Some times we catch a 'tartar,' who heap all kinds of abuse on us even before they give us a chance to return their money. It is always a temptation to tell any of this class what we think of them, but from our experience the best thing to do is to mail a check and cross the name from the mailing list, so as not to be bothered with them again.



## ACCEPTS CANCELLATIONS

"If a customer wishes to cancel his order we accept the cancellation without quibbling. This last season there were only two such instances; a lady paid for 200 day old chicks, to be shipped during the season, two months later. Two weeks before the chicks were to be sent, she wrote asking the privilege of cancellation and the return of her money less any amount we wished to deduct for our trouble. She was going to be married and her plans had changed. Another party had sent 20 per cent as a deposit for 200 chicks, and three days before they were to be shipped telegraphed saying he could not send the balance. A letter of explanation followed stating that the failure of a firm in which he was interested had embarrassed him financially and he could not complete the payment. This party said we could keep the deposit. In the first case we returned the full amount and wished the lady much happiness; in the second case, chicks for the amount of the deposit were sent on and the order for the rest cancelled.

"We do not know of any place where it pays more to give customers a square deal, or a little more than a square deal, than in the poultry business. A large percentage of our business is in repeat orders and we increase our business 50 per cent or more each year, without increasing advertising. That is the dividend paid by treating customers liberally.

"Of course we are imposed on occasionally, but we do not let that worry us. The result at the end of the year is what we are after and if at the close of the season the claims and cancellations have not been too much for the volume of business, we are well satisfied with our policy."

## IS IT BETTER TO BUY OR GROW YOUR OWN POULTRY FOOD?

This is a question that is often debated, but there is really not much room for argument where poultry raising is the chief business of the farm. On the general farm, where poultry raising is a side line, and where grain growing is one of the chief parts of the farm operation, it will pay to use some of your own grain for your poultry. But on a strictly egg farm or an almost exclusive poultry farm, it does not pay to attempt to grow your own grain foods. You can buy them from people who make a business of producing grains or from some large dealer, who handles feeds on a small margin of profit, much cheaper than you can produce your own feed. Your time is more valuable and should be devoted entirely to your poultry, if you are expecting to make money from an exclusive poultry farm. You can buy most of the foods cheaper than you can grow them. The farmer in the corn belt and wheat growing sections can employ men at 75c to \$1.50 per day to compete with you in growing grains. Your time is worth several times that when devoted to your poultry. Every poultryman should try to grow his own green food. That will not require much land or much labor. Then you always have fresh,

succulent, green food for your fowls. Outside of raising the necessary green food, your time can be more profitably spent if it is devoted to looking after the details, and trying to provide for the comfort of your chicks and fowls, and endeavoring to discover the leaks and means of increasing your business and your profits. So we advise against attempting to raise your own poultry foods, as a rule. You can save money by buying a reliable feed already mixed.

But when feed is extremely high in price it will pay you to grow more food than is ordinarily done. If you can grow an abundant crop of any sort of grain or green food without too much labor and expense and without utilizing space that is really needed for your poultry, this should be done when feed is high. If you have a patch of ground that is suitable to corn growing, it should be planted to corn and the chickens allowed to range in same after it has gotten well started. If you can grow some Mangel Beets, Rape, Swiss Chard, Clover, Oats, or some other grain or green food that will not require too much labor and which will give you an abundant yield, you can cut down the cost of feeding your poultry very materially. Then you can buy your ground feed for mash and the bulk of your grain on the market.

If yourself and a number of other poultrymen in your community will form a club and order feed in car lots, or at least in several ton lots, you can usually get your feed at the minimum price by so doing. It does not pay to waste your time growing or mixing feed.

### MISTAKES IN FEEDING

The poultryman who watches the prices of the various ingredients which go to make up his feeding ration shows signs of wisdom. Very often corn and wheat and other staple foods can be bought cheaper at harvest time, or be contracted for from some reliable milling company or feeding concern than at other times. The item of feed is one of the biggest things in the poultry business and it often pays to be on the lookout for bargains in anything in that line.

When a certain kind of grain increases in price, because of scarcity of demand, to such an extent that a poultryman cannot afford to feed it, he should try to find some cheaper food that would make a good substitute, something which could be used without influencing the egg yield or affecting the health of the fowls. It pays to be very careful in making substitutions, and it should be done gradually. Any sudden change in feed will affect the egg yield, also hinder the growth of young stock for a short time, and often cause digestive disorder. Two foods may be practically the same in chemical analysis, yet the fowls may like the one and dislike the other. One may give splendid results, and the other prove very unsatisfactory, as is the case with wheat and rye.

Wheat and corn should always constitute a good portion of the grain food. The results obtained with a wheat and corn ration

are so much better than with most grains that can be substituted for them that it seldom pays to discard these two grains entirely from the ration, even though the price is high. By making the grain ration one-fourth wheat and one-fourth corn, the other half can be composed of cheaper grains if such can be secured, such as barley, kaffir corn, milo, oats, buckwheat or other grains of like feeding value. It is difficult to find anything which will entirely act as a substitute for wheat and corn.

It is results that you are after, growth in the young stock, eggs from the layers, fertility and hatchability with the breeding stock, and health and vitality with all of them, and if you can get these with foods which you can substitute there can be no objection to such substitutions. The same applies to the dry mash and all other foods used. This is a thing which receives much consideration on the part of the successful poultryman. It is a big factor in the profit or loss of any farm. On account of the cheapest and most plentiful feeds varying so in different sections, it is difficult to recommend any one best thing which would be suited alike to every section.

Please bear in mind that you cannot do your feeding absolutely by rule. Some seasons more will be required than others. Some pens of fowls will require more than others. There is a possibility of a ration being balanced and still not being as palatable or digestible as it should be for best results. The poultryman who enters his house with a bucketful of feed and two buckets full of gumption is the one who gets best results.

A grain may be inferior in quality, but it should be pure and wholesome, free from decay, must and mold. The same should be said of all other foods. One very often finds a poor grade of dry beef scraps. Much of that which is sold on the market is inferior in quality and has a very objectionable odor which should condemn it. A very good way to test beef scraps is to put some in a cup and pour a small quantity of hot water over it, just enough to cover the beef scraps well. Stir it vigorously. If it has a bad odor, or if it foams and appears to be soapy, it is an inferior grade which should not be used. It is best to examine all your feed carefully, especially if you are purchasing a large quantity. Poultry foods may be inferior of quality, but should be pure and wholesome.

Never feed foods which are so wet that they are sloppy. This practice often causes diarrhea. But it is advisable to use moistened mashes with both the young stock and the laying hens.

The drinking pan must never be allowed to go dry, winter or summer. Water is very cheap, but it constitutes a large part of the egg and a larger part of the weight of a hen's body. It is very essential to health and to egg production. If hens are allowed to suffer for water, it will cause a big decrease in the egg yield and a big slump in the profits.

Feed your flocks in such a way that they will not be compelled to eat in their own filth. Cleanliness in feeding is impor-

tant. Feed on fresh soil, a clean floor or board, or in clean litter. Never throw a moistened mash on filthy soil, in a dirty litter, or on a floor or board where there is great danger of the fowls becoming contaminated by disease germs. We once visited a large eastern poultry plant, where the feed man simply took his foot and scraped away the filthy litter from a dirty floor, and then threw the moistened mash upon the filthy floor. In the scramble to get it, the dirt and litter were mixed with the mash, and this farm was losing hundreds of hens with tuberculosis and various kinds of diseases, and finally failed.

Always bear in mind that for best results there should be a difference in the methods of feeding the breeding stock and the laying hens. The breeding stock require less feed, less beef scraps, less fattening food, more green food and more exercise. By right and sensible methods of feeding and by the practice of economy a big increase in the profits of any farm is made possible.

### A SECRET IN FEEDING YOUNG CHICKS

In growing young stock it is very important that they be kept growing and at no time are allowed to become stunted for any reason whatever. They should be kept on fresh soil each season. If you are forced to use the same pens every year for the growing stock, see that the soil is made fresh and sweetened by cultivation and by growing some green food thereon.

There is one method of feeding chicks which should be practiced by every poultryman whose young stock is kept in limited quarters. If the chicks have free range and find plenty of bugs and worms, it is not so important. But unless this is true, poultrymen can grow much better chicks, they keep in better health, and they develop faster where this feed is used in addition to their regular ration.

The feed is mixed as follows:

2 quarts bran.

1 quart shorts or middlings.

1 quart corn meal.

This is mixed as a dry mash. A large quantity of it can be mixed for a large flock, but it should be mixed in the above proportion. It can be mixed and stored in bins, sacks or hoppers and used just as needed.

Six quarts of the above mash are used in preparing this feed. With this is mixed one quart of ground lean meat. Any kind of cheap lean meat will answer for this purpose. It must not be tainted in any way. The one quart of meat and the six quarts of mash are thoroughly mixed. Then one pint to one quart of water is added. This mixture is thoroughly stirred until it is well mixed, after which it is run through a sausage mill or any other kind of mill that will produce similar results. The meat will be mixed with just enough of the mash that the chicks do not overeat and the results are surprisingly good. It will tend to keep

the birds in good health, it will hasten their growth and add to their vigor. This is a cure for many ills in raising young stock.

Do not give all the birds will eat, although there is not much danger of causing serious trouble because of the amount of dry mash mixed with the meat scraps. You will find this a great aid in raising young stock and securing a satisfactory growth and development. It is worth a great deal to know this one secret. One prominent poultryman said this one fact was worth a trip across the continent to learn of it. Especially is this recommended for young chicks that have reached the age of a month or more.

## BUYING CHICKS FROM HATCHERIES

You should be very careful in buying baby chicks from public hatcheries. In the first place, they are seldom as careful as they should be in buying their eggs from well bred poultry. If you are going to use high priced labor on poorly bred poultry, you are going to suffer unnecessary loss. You ought to know something about the breeding of the stock which you propose to raise.

Then there is great danger in spreading disease by buying from hatcheries. They are often not as careful with their machines as they should be, and many diseases are spread in this way. Especially has this been true with White Diarrhea. Unless you know the management of a hatchery to be perfectly reliable, and know the stock from which your chicks were hatched, be very careful about patronizing it.

## CUSTOM HATCHING PROFITABLE

A good hatchery, which can be centrally located in a good poultry community, can do well and make money for the owner if it is properly operated. You can charge a reasonable price for hatching eggs for people who wish to have their own eggs incubated. You can also sell day old chicks from your machines. In this case, it pays to buy eggs from reliable and dependable stock and to so advertise. It is easy to build up a profitable business by selling chicks that will develop and give satisfaction in the hands of your customers. If your chicks become known for their quality you can sell them at an increase in price over the general run of chicks. There is a great opportunity for a profitable business along this line to be built up in every community where there are many poultrymen. A hatchery with a capacity of from 2,000 to 5,000 chicks per day is not uncommon. Mammoth incubators are used for this purpose.

The price charged by some hatcheries for baby chicks is as low as seven and a half cents per chick where the customer calls for them. Many get as much as fifteen to twenty-five cents each in hundred lots for a good grade of stock. Some fanciers charge as much as fifty cents to \$1.00 per chick.

## **BROOD LARGE NUMBERS**

If you are going to make a living from the poultry business, it is necessary to plan to save labor in every possible way. Every step saved will give you just that much more time to look after some detail or enable you to care for just that many more head of stock.

The above being true, we advise the use of some method of brooding so that you can brood as many chicks as possible without being compelled to fuss around with a lot of little flocks. There are systems of brooding that are very satisfactory, and which will enable you to keep from 250 to 1,000 in one brooder or one room. If they can be grown successfully in such brooders, you can do all the cleaning and all the feeding and watering without being compelled to make many different trips to many houses or hovers. If you only desire to raise a few chicks, there are many small brooders that give most excellent satisfaction. These large or small brooders and hovers can be bought from many different incubator and brooder manufacturers who are continually trying to improve the system used in the past, and very rapid progress is being made in this respect. If you need advice in this line we will be glad to assist you if possible.

### **HOW TO PREVENT CHICKS FROM PICKING AND INJURING ONE ANOTHER**

Where chicks are raised artificially, especially where 250 to 1,000 are kept in one room or brooder, they often become very canabalistic. They develop the habit of picking at one another's toes until they make them bleed; or they get into the habit of picking at the end of the wing or at the vent of another chicken until they practically eat the unfortunate chicken up. When once started the chickens quickly develop the habit until the entire flock is busy at such mischief.

This can be prevented by keeping the little fellows busy. Those which run out-of-doors do not seem to develop the habit. We advise painting the windows of the brooder house with white-wash, and we sometimes use some bluing in it to deaden the light. If you will not allow the direct rays of the sun in your brooder house, and deaden the light, you will practically eliminate all future trouble along this line.

We also tie a piece of meat to a string and put it just high enough from the floor so the chicks have to jump a trifle to reach it. The vigorous chicks keep busy at this and do not find time to bother the weaker ones. The blue or deadened light in the brooder house will practically solve the problem. Paint your windows with a bluish whitewash, or powdered French chalk, whiting, or Bon Ami.

### **INTENSIVE OR NOT INTENSIVE**

The question of how intensive your farm may be depends largely upon your soil and the climatic conditions. We have seen single acre tracts in sections of California where from 1,000 to 3,000 laying hens were kept year in and year out. We are of the

opinion, however, that this number of chickens is too many even in the most favorable sections of California. Serious trouble is almost certain to come sooner or later to those who overdo the thing.

Where this number of hens is kept, the soil must be sandy and porous. The climate must be dry and the temperature moderate. A large number of hens cannot be kept on a small piece of ground in any state where the land is inclined to be cold and damp, or has a tendency to become sour. If you will bear this fact in mind, it may save you from failure.

If you do not expect to raise or breed your own stock, but expect to buy your mature pullets from the outside and simply replenish a portion of your stock in that way each year, you can keep many more laying hens on the farm than you otherwise could. If you expect to raise your own stock from which you intend to breed, then they need range and fresh soil. If you simply expect to buy several thousand baby chicks each year, raise those and keep the pullets only for layers and not for breeding purposes, then these do not need so much range. Under these circumstances, you can raise several hundred on a very small plot of ground. Remember that the plan of your houses and yards, the soil, and the climate are the things which you must consider before you can begin to succeed on a very intensive farm.

Several hundred laying hens and pullets can be kept in one house and on one small plot of ground where they are used only for laying stock. Many poultrymen confine them to the house from one year to the next. In that case it is a good idea to have a two story house with a dirt floor below, or at least have a small yard in front so the hens can get into the sun and scratch in the soil. Laying hens do not need much range or require much space if the soil, houses and climatic conditions are right.

## **CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS OR FEDERATIONS MAY MEAN THE SOLUTION OF POULTRY PROBLEMS**

The formation of poultry communities which bind themselves into co-operative associations or federations may mean, and we believe will mean, the solution of many poultry problems.

Very often with one man fighting his battles alone, he cannot secure the markets, he cannot get the prices he deserves, he cannot produce volume enough to make his business worth paying a premium on, he has to pay the highest prices for his supplies and feed, and he is deprived of many things which he might have if he were operating through a co-operative association in a poultry community.

If there are a number of poultrymen operating through the same organization and living in the same community, some could make a specialty of hatching chicks for the entire community. This would enable the work to be done by experts, and the cost and loss reduced to a minimum. It would save a lot in equipment and a lot in expense of operation. It would enable the poultryman to have his own eggs hatched or to buy his baby

chicks, and devote all his time and equipment to raising them. Others might become specialists in raising and selling pullets, and still others might become specialists in trap-nesting and breeding for egg production, and in raising and selling stock for that purpose.

Through such organizations fencing, lumber, feed, equipment and supplies can be bought in car lots and a great saving in freights and prices can be made. Then when it comes to marketing, there is volume of business enough to justify the best buyers to solicit your business and pay you the very best prices for your products. Just that difference: the two or three cents saved on feed and supplies, and the two or three cents increase in the price received for eggs and poultry, is just the difference between success and failure in thousands of cases. Therefore, we encourage the forming of poultry communities, and the organization of poultry co-operative associations and federations. We believe this will be the solution of many poultry problems, and will be the means of hundreds succeeding where they now fail.

## NO GREAT INCOME WITHOUT VOLUME

It is a mistaken idea that you can buy or raise a few or even a lot of chickens, and then all you have to do is to go out and gather in the eggs and consequently the money. They must be fed and cared for, and both feed and labor are high priced.

It is also a mistaken idea for the average man to think that he can make money from a few chickens. There are some fanciers who succeed in obtaining high prices for stock and eggs which they have for sale, and they do quite well and make money from a small flock. But the average man who expects to make money from a flock of laying hens, and depends largely upon the sale of table eggs and market poultry for his income, must have as many as 1,000 hens and pullets, in our opinion, before he can do much. Unless he has sufficient capital to keep 1,000 hens, he had better use his poultry as a side line, and depend upon some other business for a part of his support. You cannot have a very great income unless you have eggs and poultry for sale, and you cannot have the eggs unless you have the hens to lay them. In order to have volume of business so as to make it really worth while you must have laying capacity. Without the hens you cannot get the eggs. With the right system, the right equipment, and any sort of help from his family, one man can care for from 1,000 to 4,000 hens and raise the pullets to replace the old hens. It is easier to make \$1,500 from 1,000 hens than it is to make \$4,000 from 4,000 hens. By increasing your numbers and your capacity, you increase your volume, but you also increase the cost of operation, you cannot give so much attention to details, and you decrease the per cent of net profit per hen. While this is true, you must bear in mind that you must have eggs to sell if you are to have any income, and if the number of hens which you keep is so small that it takes all of your income to pay living expenses, feed bills



and cost of operation, you have no chance to increase your income and you have nothing to offset the depreciation of your buildings and equipment.

About the best any poultryman can hope to get is an average production of 50 per cent and there is not one in a thousand who does so well as that; the average is perhaps nearer 33 1-3 per cent per hen or even less. If that be true, you can readily see that a poultryman must have quite a number of hens, if he is to have much of an income. If you cannot start with a reasonable number of hens, then depend on something else for a portion of your income until such a time when you will be justified in devoting all your time to the poultry business. By all means keep pure bred poultry, and sell stock, eggs and baby chicks for breeding purposes. These will add to the income.

## ENEMIES AND DISEASES

A final and an important thought which we would like to leave with you as far as enemies and diseases are concerned is that there is more in prevention than there is in cure. When poultry is kept in large numbers it is wise to use any remedy that can be effectively used as a flock treatment. But, as a rule, only in cases where the bird is a very valuable individual can you afford to give individual treatment. In every case, if birds exhibit evidences of contagious diseases or serious sickness of any nature, it is wise to separate such fowls from the general flock and place them in quarantine.

Inasmuch as prevention is far better than cure, it behooves every poultryman to give serious thought to methods of prevention. See that the houses are dry and free from drafts; see that the premises are sanitary; see that the yards are well drained; see that the soil is sweet and pure; that the feed is wholesome; that the stock is kept free from vermin; that the breeding stock is mature, vigorous and healthy; that the brooders and incubators are properly operated so as to be conducive to health and growth in the young stock. Such thought and such methods on the part of the poultryman as will lead to the proper consideration of the above things will go a long way toward success in any case, and will do more good and be more effective than all the dope and medicines in christendom. We beg of you to look to the future in planning your poultry work, and the proper consideration of these problems in advance will often steer you clear of the rocks upon which many poultry plants have been wrecked.

## THE MARKETS

It so often happens that a man is successful in producing eggs in large numbers at small cost. He often has no trouble to hatch and rear chickens successfully and economically, but he fails when it comes to marketing his product. This is sometimes due to the fact that the man is a poor salesman. It is well to study salesmanship. Failure in securing profitable prices is

often due to the fact that the poultryman selected a poor location for his farm. He is out of reach and out of touch with the best markets. It profits but little to be able to produce eggs and poultry in large numbers and be able to do so economically, if you are then unable to dispose of them at a price which makes it profitable.

In locating, investigate as to the markets and prices. Here again is where the co-operative producing associations and poultry communities are of great advantage to the individual producer.

## HOW TO PASS THE STAGE OF FAILURE

A good many poultrymen start out with limited capital, and, of course, nearly always make a great many mistakes in the beginning. Just at the time when they get right up to the point where they really know the business, where they are in a position to begin to reap a harvest and where they have worked up a business and a reputation for themselves, their capital has given out and they haven't sufficient income so that they can hold on and tide over this time.

Then again a poultryman will invest his limited capital, and he will not take into consideration the fact that his stock has to be fed, and perhaps hatched and fed and grown during a period when he will be having very few sales and very little income. For that reason he is not able to hold on to his growing stock and mature the birds to an age where they can be sold profitably for breeding purposes, or carry over a sufficient number of his birds to the breeding season when he can expect quite an income from hatching eggs. For that reason he is forced to sell off many birds that really should be kept for breeding purposes or for the purpose of producing commercial eggs.

It is often hard to get past the unproductive seasons. If you have plenty of capital this is of no concern to you; if not, the only resort is to save enough during the productive season to pay expenses during the unproductive one, or else so plan your work and labor on the farm as to have an income from some source during the period when your poultry cannot be depended upon for an income. Provide for a rainy day and make your plans so as to protect yourself against a dull time that might come. A precaution of this sort may lead to success that may have otherwise resulted in failure.

## YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES

You will make mistakes. That is to be expected. You will suffer loss at times. If you do not, you are the one exception in life. Do not expect everything to be happiness and sunshine. Disappointments come to the most successful business men. All their plans do not materialize just as they expected them. Some of the best educated and best trained experts in all lines of business fail. More than 95 per cent of the men in all lines of business fail at some period in life.

Thus it is not to be expected that every man who engages in

the poultry business will succeed. Perhaps only a small per cent of them will. But we have endeavored to advocate only safe and sane practices, and to point the way to success if the outside conditions are normal. As to the remainder of the problems which confront our students while engaged in the actual operation of their farms, we can only advise them by personal letter, which we will be only too glad to do at any time. We will also keep in touch with all the latest developments and experiments made by individuals, government and state experiment stations, and upon our own experimental farm, and our students will be informed of these facts from time to time by circulars, letters and by other methods even though they have completed their course and passed satisfactory examinations on each lesson.

### CONCENTRATION! APPLICATION!! WORK!!!

In recommending this course to his friends, Dr. P. T. Woods offered some advice which is so valuable that we repeat it here.

"Whether you get much or little out of it will depend largely upon yourself and the sincerity of the effort you put into it. Try it, but make a real business of it, not simply a pastime. Be sure that you put real work into it and do not side-step your opportunities. Do not imagine that securing a diploma is the goal you are striving for. The diploma is meaningless unless you have, by diligent study and practical application, built within yourself a substantial foundation for future work out of the lessons the course provides.

"Study, well-chosen reading, all efforts to improve one's self—to prepare for the opportunities which may come—are always worth while. Abraham Lincoln said: 'I will study and get ready, and maybe my chance will come.' The chance always comes if you get ready for it. Dean I. T. Talbot, a leading educator in his day, always addressed the entering classes at the university on the importance of putting whole-souled effort into study and into practical application of the lessons. At impressive points in his discourse he would thunder out, in a voice that vibrated to the innermost depths of his students, his favorite slogan, 'Your success depends upon three things—*Concentration! Application!! Work!!!*' The first time we heard it, it merely startled and provoked a smile. The second time it began to convey a meaning. With each repetition the meaning became more plain and the conviction grew that in those three words, so forcibly expressed, lies the real secret of all success in life. With that simple 'call to arms' in the workaday world, Dean Talbot, by the magic of his personality, changed many a heedless boy or girl into a thoughtful man or woman and helped them to get a firm foothold on the first rung of the ladder of success.

"Do we consider a correspondence course in poultry husbandry practical and worth while? We do. Its value to you, friend reader, will be worth just as much as you make it worth by 'Concentration Application!! Work!!!' Get ready! Your chance will come!"

## NOW FOR SUCCESS

This is the concluding lesson of this course. While this is true, it is just the beginning of the practical and helpful lessons which we expect you to learn as one of our students. We do not mean to be egotistical when we say that we believe you have been given more practical and down-to-date information in this course than you will find in any other poultry literature or through any other correspondence school. It is up to you to now put your knowledge of the business into actual practice, and as you meet obstacles from time to time, we desire and expect you to call upon us for help. We will always be glad of the opportunity to write you personal letters, and to explain problems in detail and give you the advantage of the very latest and best information which we can gather by investigation, experimentation and observation.

We have only one favor to ask at your hands and we expect to be granted that right and that pleasure, which is to the effect that if there is any thing connected with this course in Poultry Husbandry with which you are not satisfied, if there is something which has not been made plain to you, we want you to give us the opportunity to stay with you until we have at least demonstrated the fact that we have wanted and tried to do our full duty to you in every respect. If we have fallen short of our duty, if we have not tried to give you value received, if you need more information on any subject, we are your servants at all times in the future and expect to make good on any proposition if such is possible.

In our great universities, graduation day is called "Commencement," which means that though the students have completed their courses as far as that school is concerned, yet it is just the beginning of the time when they are to really put into practice and profit from the valuable lessons which they have learned while in that school. It is just the beginning of life and they are now to apply and profit by the foundation which has been laid for them. It is just so with this course. Do not judge the good which is to come from your relations with us as one of our students by only the things which you have thus far learned and the experiences which you have thus far had, but look upon this as the foundation stone upon which you must build if you are to meet with success as a poultryman, either on a large or a small scale. We shall ever be interested in your success. We fully realize that the success of our students means our success. We do not want you to feel that your relations with us or that our obligation to you is at an end. You are now expected to engage in the business to any degree that you see fit, and we expect to work along together, we expect to be informed of your problems and difficulties and to work out our successes and future together. Feel free to call upon us for advice and help.

There are no examination questions with this lecture, therefore the student is not required to pass an examination on Lecture Number 38.

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# The Science of Judging

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## ORIGIN OF THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION

The first poultry organization for the purpose of promoting exhibitions was in 1865 in England. A description of the various breeds was given under the title of "The Standard of Excellence." This standard marked the first step in judging according to a standard method rather than permitting each judge to have his own standard. It was the first acknowledgement that birds be bred for certain definite points and that full explanation should be printed of these points. The birds had to have as many as fifteen points but there was no cutting for defects as is the case with the modern Standard of Perfection. The judges of that time refused to adhere to its rules but not withstanding this fact it was a forward movement.

In 1872 a poultry convention was held in New York City which issued an American Standard. It was based on the old English Standard but increased the value of the points from fifteen to one hundred. In this standard the cuts were made for defects. A little later the American Poultry Association was formed by delegates from all parts of the country. This Standard has been revised every five years in open session, but from this time on is to be revised only once in every eight years.

The Americans have emphasized the score card method, but the English have not adopted the score card system of judging. The two methods used in this country are by score card and by comparison. Many judges favor the score card while others favor comparison judging.

As a rule, the English judges depend more on their judgment without reference to the Standard. The American judges are expected to rely completely on the Standard and base their judgment on its rules. It is a big mistake for any judge to pretend to know more than the Standard.

There would be more shows if there were more good judges. As the interest in poultry grows, there is going to be an increasing demand for poultry judges. Many shows are today forced to take very inferior judges because the demand is much greater than the supply.

Perhaps you do not intend to judge poultry at poultry shows at all. Yet, you will find the study of this lesson on The Science of Judging will show you the methods practiced by poultry judges; will enable you to get an insight as to just what your birds should be so that you will be able to understand and know your own breeds better, and to breed and mate and handle them to your advantage. Breeders are recognizing the fact that they should know

the Standard requirements of their variety in order that they may be able to select their best birds for the shows and for breeding purposes.

You cannot really know the Standard unless you know just how the judge applies the Standard; how he selects and judges the birds according to the Standard requirements. In other words it is the construction that the judges put on the Standard that is as important as the Standard itself.

The demand was never greater and the opportunity for success as a poultry judge never more certain than at the present time.

Also, the man who is most successful as a breeder today is the man who is really an all around judge of poultry, and who not only knows the Standard, but knows how to apply it and can really judge his own breeds at home as well as in a poultry show.

There are but few, if any, men judging poultry at the present time who have ever had any systematic training before attempting to judge. Most of them have simply worked out a system themselves; that is one reason there are so many systems and so much dissatisfaction in the show room. It took these men years and they had many hard knocks and had to take many insults before they were really able to understand their subject and to give satisfaction.

Now the modern student is able to get advice and learn from the experience of men who have spent from ten to thirty years in the poultry business successfully. In other words, he need not grope in the dark, and work out the problems of judging and selecting his own birds to win on, and to breed and mate from, but he can get practical instructions from men who understand the business, and who have the experience to give him the right kind of advice.

Before you even begin to study judging, it is necessary that you will be well acquainted with the different varieties of poultry. You must have a general knowledge of the various breeds of poultry—their origin, chief characteristics, utility qualities, etc.

If a judge is going to tie the ribbons and award the prizes according to the real merits of each specimen, he should understand Nature's laws and the principles of mating and breeding.

He should have a complete knowledge of the requirements of the Standard of Perfection of the breed or breeds he is required to pass judgment on. In addition he should know just how the judges apply the requirements of the Standard. He should also know this even though he does not intend to judge so that he can apply this information to his breeding and mating in his yards at home, as well as selecting the birds when it comes to show time.

In determining the real value of any specimen, the judge should know the most important and serious defects, and which are dominant and will be transmitted and which will not. He ought to be able to talk to the exhibitors intelligently on the principles of breeding and be able to advise them about their matings. These



facts will aid him in judging and also add to his popularity in the show room.

The Standard of Perfection gives the requirements and illustrates the perfect specimen of all breeds and varieties. The defects and how much each defect should be discounted, or "cut," is also given.

Lessons 6 and 7, "Breeds and Varieties of Poultry," must be mastered thoroughly, because it sets out the history of the various breeds, their qualities, and illustrations are given which will enable the student to begin his judging lessons with a correct view of these points in all of the different breeds and varieties.

Lessons 8 and 9, "The Principles of Mating and Breeding," teach very thoroughly the underlying principles that the breeder must follow in order to produce standard bred fowls as well as fowls for egg production and meat purposes. By thoroughly mastering these two lessons, the student who wishes to become proficient in judging is enabled to intelligently understand how and why the different breeds and varieties have been produced.

## METHODS OF JUDGING

One of the benefits to be derived from the modern poultry show is to assign reasons for the winning birds or show by comparison why the birds unplaced were not placed in the winning class. The tendency of poultry judging is toward the hurry up style which has been brought about by the shortness of time often allowed the judge.

The amateur exhibitor and even the old-timer often wants to know why his bird was not in the winning or why the birds that were placed first won. The judge should remain after the awarding of the ribbons and assign some of his reasons for his judgment. Of course this could partake of the nature of a general row if there were not some rules for control of the exhibitors.

The exhibitor should have the privilege at any time of seeking real information from the judge of the reasons for his decision. On the other hand, the exhibitor should ask questions that are for real information and not for the purpose of simply criticizing the work of the judge. The exhibitor should also approach the judge in a respectful and gentlemanly manner, and not in an abusive way, because he is a loser and dissatisfied with the judge's work.

There is no doubt but that much more can be learned by the spectators in this way than by any other method and it gives them such information to aid them in future exhibition work.

The tendency of this is to make the judge much more careful and whenever he awards a ribbon he would desire to be absolutely sure that he had ample reason for his decision knowing that his reasons would be submitted to an audience.

The exhibitors spend much time and effort in training their birds for the show. They have spent much valuable time and money in getting their start and they want to know where the defects are and how in the future they can breed in order to correct these defects.

There was much latitude left to the early judge. In fact, each judge had his own ideas and there was an entire lack of uniformity. Such a condition made the showing of fowls too much of a gamble. This led to the adoption of the score card defining the points to be deducted for each defect. The printed score was assigned for each breed which left some latitude still as to the seriousness of each defect.

This enabled each breeder who knew his own breed to score his own birds so that he could ascertain his best and go into the show room with better assurance of success.

However, there has been some reaction against this method and there is no uniformity in the use of the score card. One reason for this is that in the growth of the number of birds exhibited there is not so much time allotted to the judges to complete the work with the score card. The increased expense of conducting shows force managements to reduce expenses as much as possible which is one of the big influences that work against the use of the score card.



**AN IDEAL**

An ideal Leghorn comb showing the desired five points with properly shaped blade and rear point. For description see text of article.—F. L. Sewell.



**DEFECTIVE**

A Leghorn head showing a number of defects in shape, plumage, comb, wattles and ear-lobes that are often found and that make a bird a cull no matter how well bred.—F. L. Sewell.

In walking down the aisle and examining these two birds, the judge would see at a glance that the bird on the left should be given careful consideration for first place, while the bird on the right with his many glaring defects would be unworthy of a place even though he had no competition. Such birds should be checked with an "O" but should be handled later on when finally handling the class. In score-card work he would not be scored because of the side-sprig on the comb, a disqualification. The above illustration is run through the courtesy of the Reliable Poultry Journal.

The amateur exhibitors are probably in the majority in their desire for the use of the score card. Their argument is that if the birds had all been scored and the owner knew how close was the approach to those that did win he would feel better satisfied and the score given his bird would add very much to the selling value and furnish a guide to the prospective buyer, who would know that he was paying for at least a near prize winner.

This method is not always absolutely accurate for no two judges would interpret the points to be cut exactly alike, but it is as near an approach to correctness as we can get. For large shows, the comparison method is the only system that can be used on account of the immense amount of detail and the labor required in recording the scores and cuts.

You will find as a poultry judge that the best method to begin with is the score card. You need to consider a bird section by section in order to learn to give its proper rating. The only way to learn the art of judging is to go and do some judging. You will doubtless make some mistakes in the beginning but no amount of instruction will perfect you unless you add practice.

Comparison judging takes much practice before the entire bird can be given its proper rating without judging section by section. It is true that the score card is slower work for the amateur but the surest way to perfect himself. The beginner to learn to read must first know the letters of the alphabet and later he can learn to read at a glance. Each word is recognized without having to go through the tedious process of spelling the word letter by letter.

When judging by comparison, walk down the aisle of the class that you are judging and form a mental impression of each bird in its coop. You can form a general idea of the general shape, and see them in their natural poses. If you are judging by the score card method each bird should be gone over thoroughly while in the coop before it is handled and many points can be seen before you get the bird in your hands. Make notations and your memoranda on the coop cards so you will have this to guide you in your final decision.

One of the disadvantages of the score card method is that much time must be spent on birds that are not worthy of the attention that it takes to score them and prolongs the work. In small shows the exhibitors have more of the sportsman's spirit and the judge is not so likely to be questioned so closely. Many of these are showing with a view to learning something and the money or advertising value is not so much to them as to the professional poultryman who is showing for the sole purpose of advertising his birds and loss of ribbons means very much to him in a financial way.

In both the small and the large show there is always a tendency on the part of some to try and get some way by which you will know whose birds you are judging, thinking perhaps that the acquaintance formed and their anxiety will so impress you that there will be favoritism shown in a close decision. There is no use to allow these things to influence your judgment in the least. On the

other hand, you will find many quarrelsome exhibitors who will banter you for an argument. You can politely give your reasons for your awards if you desire and in fact in the majority of cases it is best to do so. Do not allow yourself to get into an argument with the exhibitor but listen patiently to what he has to say and display patience and caution.

You are mistaken if you think that there is big pay in judging the big shows. These large shows have to cut expenses as much as possible. They employ many judges, therefore the pay is light compared with the prestige of the exhibit. The judges are taxed with a great deal of work and must get through with their work in a hurry, while you have all of the time that you want, as a rule, in the small show.

### HONESTY OF JUDGES

The old time story of selling out by the judges are back in the distant past. The men who hold license, as a rule, are working with an eye toward the future. Their success depends on the satisfaction they give and their aim is to treat the exhibitor right and even if they did not have any scruples at all it pays them, especially as far as their future is concerned, to treat all with the utmost fairness. We quote the following from Judge Card in his Confessions of a Poultry Judge.

"On the other hand, the pleasure of commendation for the work well done and honest duty performed is more than commensurate for the few and far between disagreeable tests of honor, ridicule, suspicions and ill feelings of disgruntled losers. The judge with a genuine love for his work never has a case-hardened conscience, and is always extremely sensitive to adverse criticisms ( a few more thistles in his bed of roses). And others such as pecking around corners-exhibitor while judging, the chip on the shoulder sort, who believe the worst anyway, the novice with his knowledge of a thousand years, the Vet., bound to win any old way; thorns in the flesh and soul of the average thorough judge, which have convinced him that his calling is not one to be desired nor "Angel-born;" in fact, more akin to the opposite; although he enjoys the full confidence of his friends and the respect of his enemies. His observation of chicken human nature inclines him to believe that the commendation of the good loser is sincere and that the flattery and good will of the good winner is wholly defined and influenced by nothing more nor less than the blue ribbons which decorate his cages.

"The 'Judas Iscariot' of the fraternity is the poultry judge who maliciously, or even thoughtlessly, criticises the work of a brother judge. Again in the words of the immortal Dave, we say: 'He ain't no chicken man,' not even a man in any sense, and is a pariah among his kind. Like the poor loser, they are a short lived plant in the soil of true fancierism.

"Much to mitigate the trials and tribulations of the poultry judge is that there are no poor winners and the poor loser has no friends; that the good fellowship of genuine poultrymen knows no

differences and that the strong spirit of fraternity among fanciers in general is of too broad a character to entertain petty jealousies, spite or cliques, and that the poultry judge is after all recognized for his true worth as a teacher, a builder and as a pioneer who leads the way to richer realms in this, his chosen vocation.

"Fulfilling one's obligations as a judge means all that has been written above, and one never begins the season without the dread or a feeling akin to a stage fright, and one's steps lag from the home to the train in a reluctance to start out; yet the first sight of the boys in the show town and all is forgotten except the warm heart throbs of pleasure that comes when one shakes the hand of George or gets a knuckle-crushing grip from Drev., a hearty grasp from Harry, or the cheery hello from Billy and we no longer wonder why. We want to be a poultry judge and with the poultry judges stand, and if you doubt all this you have never been to a real, dyed in-the-wool chicken banquet and felt the feelings, heard the sentiments, nor viewed the secrets of the inner-temple of chicken men's souls as revealed in such gatherings of true fanciers of the highest type on earth. There are some things that 'ain't so,' but there are more that are so. Hats off to the genuine article."

### **QUALITIES WHICH A SUCCESSFUL POULTRY JUDGE SHOULD POSSESS**

There are many qualities which a successful judge should possess, some are natural and others may be acquired by application and training.

A judge should endeavor to be pleasant and agreeable even under adverse circumstances. If an exhibitor wants some information as to why his birds did not win, it is the duty of the judge to so inform him. If the exhibitor is "sore" and comes at you in a defiant and disagreeable manner, a judge can win his respect and the respect of the other exhibitors and the show management by conducting himself in a gentlemanly manner, and by answering all questions civilly and in a fair-minded and impartial manner.

The judge who is popular in the show room today, and has a demand always for his services, is the one who is willing to treat exhibitors in this respectful manner, and answer all questions civilly and act in a impartial way toward them even though they may act unfairly.

No judge can make friends, or expect to be re-employed for future shows at which he judges, if he is hot-headed, disagreeable and unreasonable.

Let your conduct be above reproach. Impress your exhibitors with the fact that you are a man of some character. You can be a "good fellow" as that word goes but be a gentleman at the same time.

Make the acquaintance of every exhibitor, but be sure that when you go to place the awards you do not let your personal acquaintance and feeling influence you in your decision.

Do not do anything or say anything that will reflect on your honor. Never place yourself in a compromising position with any

of the exhibitors, or get in a position where any of them will feel that you are under any obligations to them. Don't award your best friend a prize unless he is entitled to it. He will respect you in the end for your honesty.

Be absolutely fair and honest in your decisions. Hew to the line and let the chips fall where they may. You will make many mistakes. All judges do. But if it is an honest mistake, and a mistake of the head and not of the heart, all reasonable exhibitors will overlook all such. It is an absolute fact, that there is no class of live stock judges today who are more honest, conscientious and painstaking than are the poultry judges as a class. In fact the poultry judge whom the exhibitors suspicion and look upon as being questionable and dishonest, soon has to take down his sign and go out of business as a poultry judge.

You must know the varieties which you judge. You must know the Standard requirements and the disqualifications. A thorough mastery of the Standard is absolutely necessary.

A judge should be consistent. If he awards prizes to a deep cherry red in Rhode Island Reds, his winners should all be near the same shade, other points being equal. If he likes a narrow bar in a Barred Plymouth Rock, the awards should all be placed with that in view and be consistent. It does not look well to see a first prize ribbon on one type and color of bird, and the second prize on an entirely opposite type and color. Be consistent, but endeavor to correctly interpret the Standard and award the prizes as it requires and not according to your own ideas or hobbies. It is mighty easy to fall into a rut or to ride a hobby and it will ruin you sooner or later.

Speaking of some of the important things that anyone who applies for a license to judge from the American Poultry Association, E. J. Dietz stated, in the American Poultry Advocate some months ago, four requirements that he thought a judge should have.

1. The candidate should not be color blind.
2. The candidate should have a positive idea of types and while we can hardly expect all judges to be poultry artists, yet a judge should be able to make a rough sketch of some section of the fowl from memory to indicate that he can carry shape of form in his "mind's eye."
3. He should be able to read and write the English language.
4. He should know enough of the history of the breeds to appreciate the tendencies of that breed to the end that the decision on all fine points should tend toward the improvement or development of the variety in the direction desired by the breeders of such variety.

To these might be added the requirement of a natural eye for the beautiful and the artistic in poultry.

He should also have an inborn love for the study of poultry, its breeding, judging and handling. He should also be born with the ability to decide and make decisions quickly, although this quality may be very much cultivated, if not acquired altogether.

Speaking of the qualification to make a good poultry judge.

Judge Frank L. Platt, well known for his judging at leading poultry shows and editor of the American Poultry Journal said:

"Judges are not born—success comes from study and practice. It is not a simple thing to place a bird according to its merits and our best judges would tell the aspiring amateur that only by study and practice can he hope to attain success in this field."

### **DON'T CRITICISE ANOTHER JUDGE'S WORK**

Of all abominable and trouble making things in a show room it is for one judge to criticise another's awards. It is unprofessional in the first place, and always adds fuel to the flame. It is a duty which every judge owes another and which he owes the show management to help keep down trouble instead of being a disturber and a muck raker. Any show management is justified in putting any judge on the black list, whom they know to be criticising the awards of another judge. If it would help matters it would be different, but it cannot. It only brings additional trouble. Don't be a knocker.

### **HOW TO BEGIN ON A CLASS**

You should go into an aisle with absolute confidence in yourself. Simply think and feel that "I know what the Standard requires for this variety. I am honest and I propose to tie the ribbons where I believe they justly belong regardless of anyone's else opinion. When I am through my conscience will at least be clear, even if I have made a mistake. I can say and feel that I have done my duty—I have done the very best I could." No man can do more than that whether he pleases the people or not. If you become confused and lose confidence in yourself you are almost certain to make a mess of the whole thing.

If you are not certain about the Standard weight, the scale of points, the disqualifications and the requirements for any variety, I would advise you to take your Standard and look that portion of it over before you attempt to judge the class so all the requirements and points will be fresh in your mind. It is usually best to look your Standard over in your own room or some place where you will not be in sight of the exhibitor. Some think a judge doesn't know his business and is not capable and they lose confidence in his ability if he has to refer to his Standard; but we do not think it a disgrace to do so and would much prefer to be sure and right than to attempt to judge a class and be uncertain. The most learned judges on supreme benches refer to their law books every day and before they render a decision on any case even though they feel sure of the law and its requirements. It is no disgrace to refer to your Standard.

Although exhibitors at times misconstrue the judge looking at his Standard to his ignorance or want of information, often the most experienced judge will have to look at his Standard in his class because some point will have slipped his memory temporarily, and he will want to be sure he is right before making his decision.

No matter whether you are to judge by comparison or score

card, the first thing you should do is to look over your class. We would begin with the cock birds. Take your judging stick and get each to pose to the very best advantage before any of them are even handled or removed from the cage. If the shape of any bird is so poor that the bird is entirely out of the running you should mark an O on the coop card or judging card. Another that is poor would be marked X. One that is reasonably good could be marked XX. A bird that would stand a chance of winning if other points are good would be marked XXX. One that is extra good would be marked XXXX. I would also make a notation on the coop card as to the reasons for my O, X, XX and such marks as I should decide to use, for example, "tail too high," "back too short," "neck too straight," "knock kneed," and the other defects which I found. These can be abbreviated, just so you understand the system of marks and abbreviations used. Then if any exhibitor calls your judgment into question, you have the facts at hand. Then you should handle every bird, disqualified, poor quality and all. Look for disqualifying points first. If these are found, you can so mark your card and save wasting further time on a disqualified specimen and devote your time to the better birds. You are now examining the birds for disqualifications and for defects in color and making your final decision. You should use some such system of marks and abbreviations for color as you used in judging for shape. This will aid you in making your awards and in answering questions.

It is a good idea to look the birds over for shape and make your notations as mentioned even if you are judging by the score card method. We like to look the class over carefully before we begin to pass on them. Always handle every bird, no matter how poor in quality it might be. Then the exhibitor has no room to complain.

After the cock class is finished we next handle the cockerels, then the hens, pullets and pens. Some judges prefer to handle all the old birds first, male and female, then the young stock. Do whichever seems easiest and best for you. Act natural. Do your duty and you will succeed sooner or later.

## **USE DIPLOMACY IN COMBATTING COMPLAINTS**

Judges must learn to study the complaining exhibitor and learn to use some diplomacy in handling him and answering his questions as well as to know the Standard and to correctly apply it. A cool head and a little good common horse sense will often help you out of a tight hole.

If a judge has made an honest decision it is his duty to stand by it and defend it as best he can even if he feels he might have been wrong. Unless it is a glaring error, it will never do to admit that the exhibitor is right and change your decision or be wishy-washy about it. After a base ball umpire has made his decision he must stand by it. Of course if it is a plain error and some disqualification that you had missed entirely, the only honorable thing to do is to say so and change the awards. Make sure you are right and then stand boldly by your decision. You will make friends by being firm and being able to give your reasons for the belief that is within



you. If you are in doubt about which is right, you had better not admit it now, but profit by this experience and govern yourself accordingly in the future. Sensible firmness and sincere friends go together.

Study human nature as well as the Standard. You will find you cannot use the same methods of satisfying exhibitors as possibly some other successful judge. You will find that there are different classes of people that you will have for exhibitors and they will approach you from different angles, criticizing your work, and asking you for your reasons for your decision.

After the awards are all placed it is generally a good policy for the judge to spend at least one day in the show room so that the exhibitors may question him in regard to his awards. This feature is what helps to make poultry shows educational if you have been thorough.

There are two ways of handling a dissatisfied exhibitor or one who wishes for information. They are largely diametrically opposite to each other. One of them is to confine yourself to the bird that has not won a prize, or that belongs to the dissatisfied exhibitor.

If an exhibitor comes to you with his bird in his hand and states that his bird is better than the first prize bird in eye, back and tail and that he should have had first prize, and wants you to show him why he should not and why his bird is not better than the first prize, you would make a mistake, as a rule, by taking the first prize bird and pointing out all its good points and its defects. You should take the complaining exhibitor's bird and confine yourself largely to that. The exhibitor has seen all its good points and he is so full of those things and they have looked so good to him that he has ignored its defects. Point out all the defects one after another and enlarge upon them in a pleasant way. Let the other fellow find the defects in the first prize bird and if you refer to it at all point out all the good points in the one on which you tied the ribbon. If you will do this in a nice way, you will usually point out so many defects in the exhibitor's bird that he had entirely overlooked that he will close up like a clam and be satisfied in a majority of cases. But, if you confine yourself to the winning bird, he will still not see the defects in his own and still feel that he should have won.

The other view point of the judge—and one practiced by many very popular and successful judges—is to avoid all arguments with the exhibitor. Their line of reasoning is that if you have been thorough and conscientious in placing your awards you will have no trouble whatever in explaining and convincing the exhibitor that according to your interpretation of the Standard you were right in placing the awards as you did. The average dissatisfied exhibitor sees his bird from a different viewpoint than you do. He thinks he is correct in his ideas. So do not enter into an argument with him. Tell him firmly and plainly your reasons for placing the awards as you did. If you were in conformity with the requirements of the Standard of Perfection, there can be no argument.

Often it is better to take out the two birds in question, go over them section by section and compare the sections on each specimen according to the valuation allowed them in the scale of points, finding out from the exhibitor whether he really knows just what the defects in this variety are really valued at. This method rarely ever fails to satisfy the most dissatisfied exhibitor.

Judge Frank L. Platt, in speaking of how a judge should treat exhibitors, said:

"Let me urge upon new men to be patient and to bear the criticism well, but do not accept the praise or blame of exhibitors as your sole guide. While they are bound to influence you somewhat, your convictions, controlled by reason, afford the safest rule.

"Never argue with an exhibitor. In doing so you place yourself on a level with him; in accepting his comments without bitterness, you rise above him. You need not "stand up" for your awards. If you have worked hard and thoroughly the awards will stand for themselves.

"In the small shows there is more respect and less criticism. Breeders show largely for sport, or to learn, or to favor the local association, or for the satisfaction of showing under a well-known judge, etc. In the big shows, commercialism is a factor and breeders show to win. To lose means more than the loss of a ribbon; it means the loss of prestige and business. Only a judge of experience and strong character should try to place the awards in a big show. Many a new judge has broken under the criticism of prominent exhibitors. Many have failed as they stood on the threshold of a big and bright future! My advice is do not aspire to judge the big shows, but every young man should, when possible, start with score card shows where he will handle every bird and note each section of every bird and where each defect that he finds will be recorded in mathematical language."

## **METHODS I PURSUE IN JUDGING POULTRY EXHIBITIONS**

By Judge W. S. Russell, San Francisco, Cal.

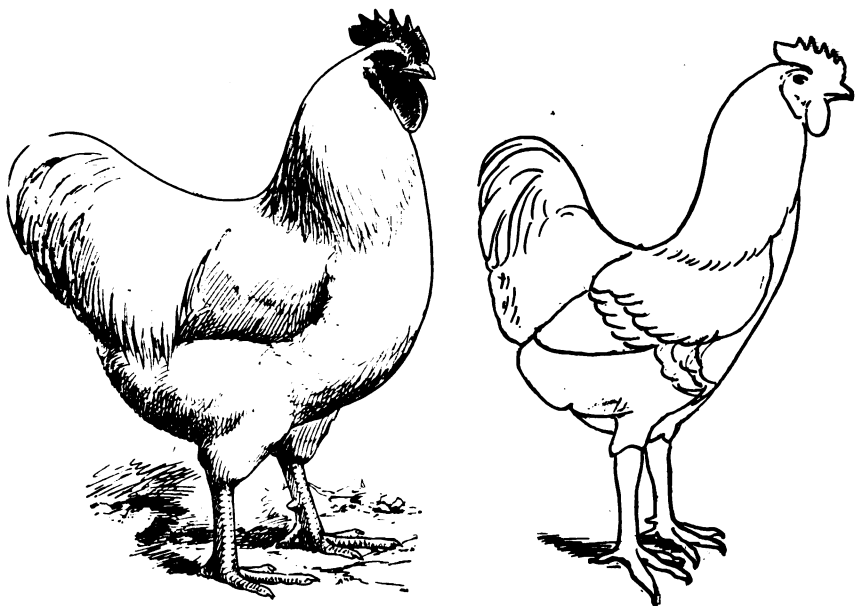
In judging poultry shows where the comparison system is employed, I usually begin with the cock class, and follow in the following rotation, hens, cockerels, pullets and pens, making my decisions and pasting the award cards on each class before I proceed to the next. I do this to avoid any possible confusion.

To begin with I look the specimens over first by walking up and down the aisle studying well the shape sections and breed characteristics, giving due consideration to the comb and other valuable shape sections of the fowl.

I never take the specimen from the coop until I have first studied it thoroughly along the above mentioned lines. I do this to be certain that I have seen the specimen in its natural position as regards typical carriage or more commonly called symmetry. I have found that specimens will not show in their natural pose immediately after handling.

I have always been a believer that "shape makes the breed and

color the variety," and in preparing the scale of points used in the American Standard of Perfection during the fifteen years that I have been a member of the Revision Committee, I have labored and



In making a preliminary survey of the class before taking any of them out of the coop the judge would notice that the bird on the right was lacking in size, depth of breast, has a high tail, is short in back, and is out of proportion in size of head, feet, and neck to the rest of his body. He not only is lacking in these body-shape points but is badly out of symmetry and should be "cut," or discounted, heavily in all body sections as well as in the symmetry section of the score-card. In comparison judging, such a bird would be marked with an "O" and not considered for a place in the awards. Contrast the perfect fullness, depth, carriage and symmetry of the bird on the left with the bird on the right. To be a successful judge you must not only be able to see these points in the profiles but also in the living, moving specimens.

been successful in securing more valuation for the shape of the bird than for color, and always with this in mind I endeavor to select the winners with the best type. After selecting the specimens of best type then I proceed to handle each specimen looking closely for disqualifications. If none are found then the different color sections are examined, both surface and undercolor, always giving more importance to the surface color, but not ignoring the undercolor. The judge that allows good undercolor to influence his decision in making awards is sure to be criticised by the visitors and breeders who visit the poultry shows and judge the specimens from what they can see without handling. In my opinion a specimen with good shape, good comb and good surface color, and yet be off a trifle in undercolor, should win over a specimen not quite so good in shape, but with much better undercolor. I will admit that occasionally specimens are found that have all the good things that I have mentioned, and yet be so very inferior in undercolor or hidden

defects that I deemed it best to place a specimen ahead regardless of serious defects. I believe the judge that is a "hobbyist" on undercolor gets more knocks than the judge that may go a little to the extreme on shape and surface color. I really believe the day is not far distant when standard-bred fowls will be judged by what can be seen without handling.

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF JUDGING.

It is well for the generation of this day and time to know something of the views of the veteran and respected judge and breeders of the past who made the American Poultry Association and the Standard of Perfection in the years that have passed. Among these great men have been I. K. Felch, a splendid judge, a great breeder and a good writer. Mr. Felch and H. S. Babcock published a little book which they called "The Philosophy of Judging Fowls." It was illustrated by J. Henry Lee and published by W. D. Page, of Fort Wayne, Ind. The following lines of these gentlemen are well worth your consideration:

"The general breeder, though he has no intention of becoming a professional poultry judge, certainly needs to understand how to score his fowls. The score does not make the fowl—the fowl makes the score—but the score does, to a large extent, measure the pecuniary value of the fowl.

"The breeder is constantly applied to for fowls scoring a given number of points; and unless he understands how to score them he must either send the birds out, hit or miss, which is a very unsatisfactory proceeding, or hire an expert to score them for him, which reduces his profits. If he can learn how to do this himself he can thus save himself much trouble, some annoyance and not a little expense.

"The exhibitor needs to possess similar information in order to properly select his fowls for exhibition. Unless he does he may leave the highest scoring specimens at home, and though really possessing birds that would enable him to win in the exhibition, he is, through lack of the necessary information, placed in a subordinate position. Of course he can hire an expert to select his fowls, but this makes an expense that he is often unwilling and sometimes unable to incur.

"The philosophy of judging fowls is a statement of the correct laws upon which accurate judging is based, an explanation of the reasons why certain "cuts" are made for given defects, an attempt to get at the basic principles which should govern a judge in the poultry exhibition.

"The American Standard of Perfection gives the rules of the art of judging; the poultry judge in this work in the exhibition room illustrates the application of those rules; but the philosophy of judging goes deeper than either the Standard or the work of the judge, for it furnishes the reason for each of his acts in the application of the Standard to the fowls exhibited.

"Correct, accurate and satisfactory judging of fowls requires not only a knowledge of the art, but of the philosophy of judging.

The former is sometimes erroneous, always arbitrary; the latter is ever reasonable and just. It is possible that correct awards may be made by one ignorant of the philosophy of judging; he may follow some cast iron, inflexible rule that really does justice; but until he understands the principles upon which judging is based, until he is familiar with its philosophy, he cannot know that he is correct and cannot explain to others why he has given the score he has to any specimen.

"A philosophy of judging is, therefore, necessary, if accurate and intelligent judging of fowls is desirable. If the principles upon which judging is based are fully comprehended, we may expect greater uniformity in the scores given by different judges, and greater satisfaction in the awards; fewer complaints will be heard and more just criticisms will be made; wrangles will to a large extent cease to disgrace the poultry exhibition, and disagreements will be settled by a reference to plain and reasonable principles.

### **STANDARD OF PERFECTION — THE POULTRY LAW.**

"The principles upon which a standard is based are not arbitrary but natural, are not made but discovered. Only violation of principles is arbitrary. To discover true principles one must go to nature; must of her take lessons; must consult her in her varied developments. Whenever one deserts nature there is danger of violating principle, of becoming arbitrary and unreasonable, and at last of becoming extremely absurd. To use a figure of speech, borrowed from one of the learned professions, we may say that nature is the constitutional law, and the Standard is the statute law of poultrydom. To the former the latter must bend. If the statute law, in any of its provisions, is in conflict with the constitution, it is to that extent null and void. It may remain on the book, but when brought before the proper tribunal, the supreme court, it is declared unconstitutional and, therefore, of no effect. In the same way an arbitrary, unnatural and absurd requirement in the Standard of Perfection coming into conflict with the higher laws of nature, will become nugatory and void. Nature, however, is to be sought at her best, not at her worst or even her ordinary developments. Only the best of nature will suffice for the perfect of man. A standard for a hundred point fowl must be made from the most perfect sections discoverable in nature, fitly and harmoniously blended into one symmetrical whole. Better than this we can never expect to do; happy are we if we do so well.

"As the judge considers the statute of law of the state, so the poultry judge should consider the Standard and its application. He should be perfectly unbiased, free from fear or favor, just, impartial, knowing neither friend nor foe. His first concern is what is the meaning of the Standard. This he is to gather from the language of its descriptions, from the definitions of its technical terms, and from the known intent of its makers. Oftentimes a statute, otherwise obscure, becomes perfectly clear and intelligible when the intent of the legislators is known. It sometimes happens, however, that the intent is so obscure as to lend considerable force to the observation

of an acute lawyer, that in passing statutes legislators generally have no intent. In such cases its meaning must be ascertained from its own terms and from the common understanding of those terms in the community. Another and very vital consideration is, whether the requirements of the Standard are in conflict with nature, and therefore nugatory and void. This is a question to be decided only after due deliberation. The Standard should be upheld if possible; its requirements should be insisted upon if any reasonable explanation can bring them into conformity with nature; the benefit of every doubt belongs to the Standard; but if, after all, there is a flat antagonism between the Standard and nature, if there is no possible way to harmonize the two, then ought not the judge to uphold the higher rather than the lower law, ought he not to decide in favor of nature rather than of an arbitrary, unnatural and perhaps absurd requirement?

"It would be well, if there were a tribunal, properly constituted, to determine differences of opinion as to the meaning of the various requirements of the Standard, something which would correspond in its action toward the Standard to the supreme court of a state in its action upon the statute law of that state. We, long ago, advocated such a tribunal to settle differences of opinion among judges and thus secure a greater uniformity in the interpretation of the Standard, and, as a consequence, greater uniformity in the score of fowls. We do not despair of seeing such a tribunal eventually established; it does not exceed the bounds of possibility that the American Poultry Association will see its need and will create such a tribunal. That differences of opinion do exist is well known; the poultry papers are filled with complaints of this nature; and artists, by their illustrations, give additional evidence upon this point.

## VALUE OF STANDARD ILLUSTRATIONS

"Most fanciers have in their mind's eye an idea of what a fowl should look like in a picture; this ideal is produced there by the pictures they have seen rather than by the fowls they have seen. Hence it became necessary in the profile movement to continually urge fanciers to go to their fowls and study them; and I must here repeat the request—study nature. We must get our ideals from her and we must make our standards by her guidance, not by our whims. The ideal that is 'twenty-five per cent better than nature' is a fraud—a delusion.

"What use, then, ought we to make of profile Standard illustrations in judging fowls? We offer it as a measure of value. Just as the merchant uses his yard stick to enable him to give you your complement of cloth, just as the farmer uses his bushel basket to ascertain the quantity of potatoes he is selling, just so are profile (Standard) illustrations used as a means of ascertaining the correct shape and proportions of the fowls which are judged by it. And as the merchant doesn't deduct part of the cloth because he measures it with a yard stick, and the farmer doesn't withhold part of the potatoes because he measures them in his basket, so no part of the score of a fowl ought to be withheld because it is measured

by profile. Used in this way, as a measure, a guide, a help, and, if the breeder desires, as an ideal to breed to, profile outlines, made as we have described, so that they are 'typical representative outlines of the breed' become of the greatest possible value. Incorrectly made and incorrectly used, they are simply a delusion and a snare."

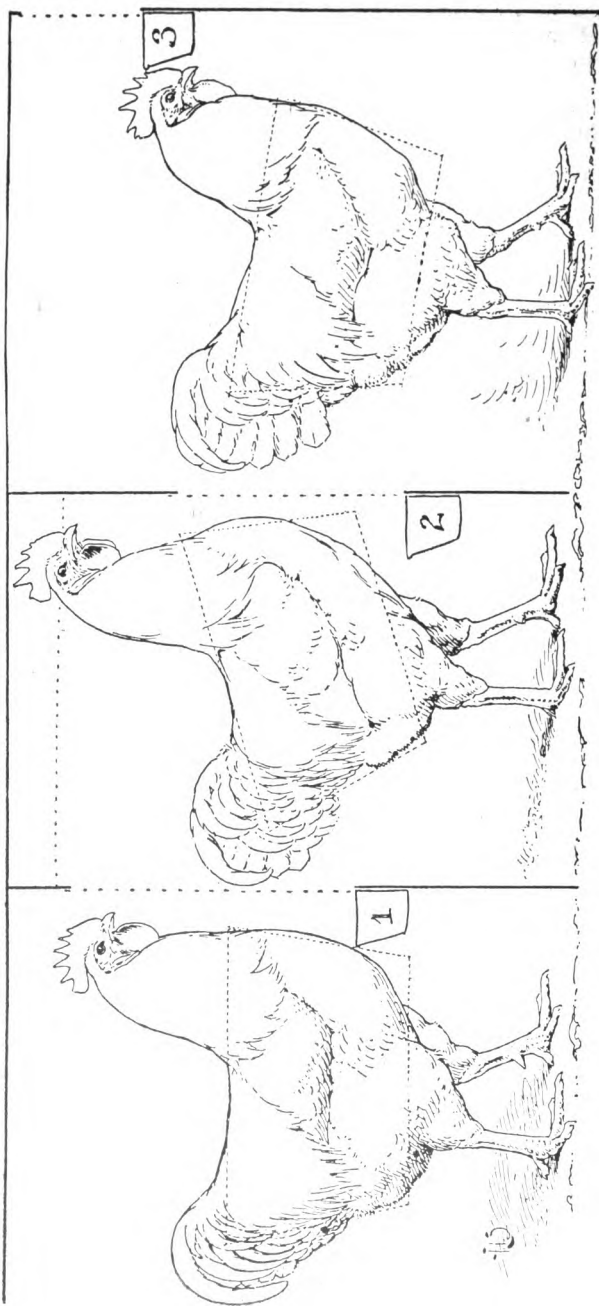
## SYMMETRY AS RELATED TO SHAPE

Symmetry is really a resultant of the union of the various parts of the fowl, a product of form. Perfection of parts, fitly jointed, make perfection of symmetry. One has said that 'symmetry is to fowls what varnish is to furniture—it puts the polish on,' but it would have been more correct to have said 'symmetry is to fowls what the polish is to furniture—it is the result of the varnish which has been put on.'

In speaking of the very important matter of symmetry, the well known poultry artist and judge, Franklane Sewell, in the *Reliable Poultry Journal* said:

"The specimen in which all sections are perfectly assembled—where every part seems in perfect harmony with the rest of the bird—no matter in what position he may be posed, is possessed of well-balanced symmetry. The awkward, ungainly, ill-proportioned fellows in his class appear as lopsided misfits beside him. One bird's head looks too big for his body; another has too long a neck for his legs; another is just the opposite—his legs are too long and coarse for what he carries on them; one has a beautiful tail, but it seems too large to go well with the remainder of the bird; another seems excellent in all its several sections when looked at separately, but in some unaccountable way these several parts do not join well together—they do not agree—in other words, they do not harmonize. They lack that symmetry of composition which every living or inanimate thing must possess to be pleasing, unless one takes pleasure in the grotesque."

"In applying this section, the judge should force the specimen into a natural and typical position for the breed, and then compare the fowl, with the Standard profile he has in mind of a perfect specimen of the breed, taking into consideration also the views presented from different positions so as to include the harmony of all the parts taken as a whole. His ideal has supplanted the profile, as well as the picture of the fowl from different positions. With this mental picture he compares the fowl, noting carefully the points of difference between the two. It will seldom or never happen that the fowl and the mental picture will coincide in all particulars. There will doubtless be in each case many agreements and some differences. The neck may be less arched, the breast have less fullness, the back follow different lines, the tail have a different carriage, or some other divergence from the lines of the mental picture be present. The differences are to be collected and the sum total of them to be calculated as a percentage of difference from the supposed perfect mental picture. Whatever this percentage may be, it should be deducted from the whole number of points allotted to



Here is an illustration of the same bird in different positions. If the bird stands constantly as shown in the pictures 2 and 3 he should be discounted severely. The judge should strive to get the bird to stand in a natural position so he can be viewed to best advantage as shown in 1. For this purpose a short metal stick called a "judging stick" is used. Note how the bird in illustration 2 looks flat in breast, shallow in body, and short in back, all caused by his standing in a poor position. Note how in 3 he looks too long in tail, too angular and short in body, and pitches in the reverse direction from the required description of a Standard-bred bird. In both 2 and 3 the bird looks too long on legs, too long in neck, and bad in symmetry, due largely to the position in which he is standing.



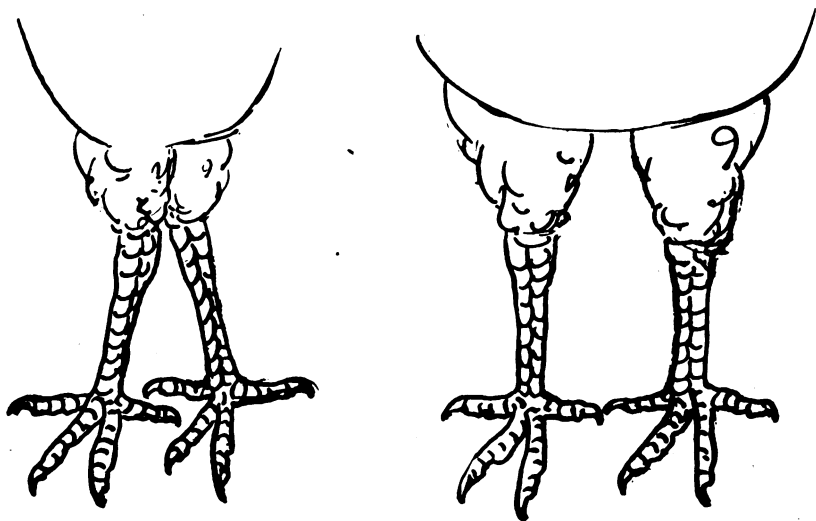
symmetry in the scale of points. In doing this the judge will often be surprised to find the frequency with which 1 is marked in the "out" column against symmetry. As 4 points is the value given to symmetry in nearly all the scales and as very few birds are exhibited which are not reasonably good in symmetry, the cut of 1 point, being a cut of 25 per cent, will be found just in nineteen out of twenty cases. Even when the birds are quite different in their defects, as when one is too long in back, another too short in leg, and another with faulty carriage of the tail, the effect on symmetry may be the same and all deserve the same cut. As few people understand this matter, and as they see the birds differing in form but suffering the same cut, it seems to them a matter of surprise, and judges are frequently made the object of cheap witticisms and pointless jokes, due to the ignorance of the would-be facetious persons.

"There may be departure from the mental picture which ought not to be cut by the judge. The mental picture should not be considered alone, but should be construed with the authoritative written description of the breed, and any characteristic which is specially valuable in a breeding fowl, and which is indicated in the written description, even though it produces a departure from the mental picture, should pass uncut. For example, such a fullness of breast and roundness of quarters as would surpass the mental picture, being a quality that enhances the value of the bird in the breeder's yard, as the fowls nearly always fail in that direction, and also being a characteristic which would comply with the description, 'round, full and carried well forward,' is a departure from the mental picture that deserves to pass uncut. Or, again, if the neck of a specimen is more arched than in the mental picture of the breed, and the written description calls for a 'well arched' neck, this would be an over-development which in the yard of the breeder would be productive of excellent results and would add to the value of the specimen, and because of these facts ought not to be cut. But where the over-development can not be harmonized with the written description, where it is something that breeders desire to avoid and its presence detracts from the value of the bird as a stock bird, there the over-development should be cut as a defect, the amount of the cut, of course, proportioned to the degree of this excess. For example, the back of the males in Brahmas and the American varieties—with the exception of the Javas—must have a concave sweep to the saddle and while an under-development which does not permit the specimen to come up to the lines of the mental picture is a defect, an over-development destroys the concave sweep of the back, because it changes the characteristics of the breed and cannot be harmonized with the written description, is a still greater defect and deserves a severe cut. In the Cochins, nature demands a well developed cushion and a convex sweep to the saddle, and in the females the abundant plumage carries this convex sweep almost to the points of the hackle.

For years breeders have labored to secure this development, and the breed has responded to their efforts. If a Cochin should

exceed the convex lines of the back and saddle in the mental picture, this excess is not to be reckoned a defect, for it complies with the written description, and corresponds with the natural characteristics of the breed, it is a quality that is desired by the fancier and desirable to the breeder.

"In other cases, over-development may be a defect, and yet such a defect as to demand a light cut in comparison with its departure from the mental picture. For example, in Plymouth Rocks and Brahmas we desire the tail to be well spread at the base, but all have seen specimens in which the tail was so spread as to be a fault. While such an over-development could scarcely be passed without some cut, yet as this is a development in the right direction and as such a bird might prove especially valuable in the breeding pen in correcting the more serious defects of whip-tailed, narrow-saddled specimens, it will be safe to err, if this be an error, on the side of too light rather than too heavy a cut.



Note the knock-kneed, narrow breasted bird on the left as contrasted with the full breasted bird with well set legs as shown on the right. Specimens such as shown on the left are usually shallow in breast, long, slender in neck, have high tails, thin bodies, and are generally out of proportion, or symmetry. Usually such birds should be marked with an "O" unless the competition is very light. In scoring them they should be heavily "cut" for symmetry as well as in body, breast, back and tail sections for shape.

"These are nice points, and cannot well be tabulated in a series of values for each defect. The proper cut for each must be determined by the judge in each case, giving a due consideration to the effect upon the particular specimen under examination. He is the best judge who can so regulate these cuts as to do justice both to the appearance of the fowl and to his value as a stock bird, who can so cut for defects as to punish all departures from the perfect development of the bird and at the same time encourage the true characteristics of the breed, even in those superlative efforts of nature from which excessive development arises.

## THE JUDGE'S TOOLS

"A good mechanic must not only have good tools, but he must know how to use them; a good poultry judge must not only have a good Standard, but he must be familiar with its contents; a correct profile; but he should understand the anatomy and development of the different varieties of fowls; a perfect scale, but he must understand its use. He should have a good eye for figure and accurate knowledge of color. Above all, he should have a good stock of common sense—a quality that is, it must be confessed, none too common. Any one thus furnished, by the diligent exercise of the faculties he possesses, can become a good poultry judge.

"Accurate judging requires, first of all, a thorough study of nature. A judge must familiarize himself with the natural development of the different breeds and varieties. Unless he does this he can never know what is perfection in nature, for words and pictures are not alone sufficient to represent all that nature produces. They are aids, valuable aids. Their use cannot be dispensed with. But after all, they are only aids.

"He must also study his Standard. The requirements for exhibition specimens are laid down with care, the scales by which their value is estimated are therein given, and he needs to know them before he undertakes to apply them. They are his tools, and the use of tools is what makes one handy with them.

"He should judge with confidence. First impressions are generally best impressions. A judge 'who hesitates is lost.' The minute he begins to doubt, loses confidence in his own judgment, he will find himself revising and re-revising his score until he makes 'confusion worse confounded.'

## JUDGING IN VARYING LIGHTS

"He should judge all birds in the same light, and the best light obtainable. There is a vast difference in the appearance of a fowl in the dim, subdued light of the coop, far from the window, and in its appearance when brought into the full sunlight. Its excellences and its defects are alike concealed. This is true of all breeds, and especially so of the parti-colored fowls. Take the Barred Plymouth Rock for example. To judge one-half of this class in the clear, morning light, and the other half in the waning hours of a winter's day, and do justice by it, is simply impossible. A cloudy or overcast day is a poor time to judge this fowl; the two shades of color which compose the plumage require the best possible light to bring them out to the best advantage. Just in the shade, out of the clear sunlight, where the light is clear but not glaring, is the best possible position in which to judge the fowl. If the day be cloudy remove every bird from its coop to the window and let the light fall upon it over your right shoulder, doing the work between the hours of nine in the morning and four in the afternoon, and each specimen will receive equal justice.

## IMPORTANT WHEN HANDLING SPECIMENS

"He must handle every bird that is scored. Surface appearance is often deceiving. The undercolor may be faulty. The surface may appear so, but upon lifting the feathers it may prove but an appearance. Visitors and exhibitors, who only judge by surface color, and that, too, in the dimness of coops, often pass very unjust criticisms upon a judge. They forget that in the light in which they view the specimen, many serious defects may be covered and many great excellences obscured.

"A beginner, who intends to become a poultry judge would do well to begin by boldly scoring many breeds rather than to make an exhaustive study of one. By doing so he will all along be making a comparative study of types, and will soon learn to distinguish a typical bird of any breed or variety. If he confines his study to a single breed its shape and characteristics will become fixed and will color his estimates of other breeds. He will be in danger of allowing individual types of some single strain to warp his judgment and render him unfit to do justice to the real type which nature makes out in her composite of different strains.

"Ties arise which the judge is expected to break. We often hear men say that if two birds score alike, say 93 points, one is just as good as the other. But is that true? Are two birds ever of equal value? Take two 93-point birds and place them side by side, and will not there be a choice between them? We have yet to see the breeder who would not prefer one to the other.

There are several methods given in the Standard of Perfection as to the manner of breaking ties. It is rare indeed that ties can not be broken by one or the other of these methods.

"Great caution should be used in disqualifying specimens. Disqualification is a summary method of rejecting fowls, and should be employed only when the disqualifying cause is positively present. Any reasonable doubt should be given to the bird and the fault cut as a defect, but cut severely.

"Among the disqualifications which arise to destroy the peace of mind of the judge is that for plucking feathers. Go into any exhibition, and how many specimens are there which do not show some feather or feathers removed? If the judge reasons that these feathers have been plucked, and disqualifies in a wholesale manner, he will bring down upon himself the wrath of the exhibitors; if he cuts for the missing feathers he may be ignoring the Standard. Yet as some of the feathers may have been moulted, or not have grown since the moult, although their absence may cause suspicion he may do injustice by disqualifying. If there is evidence of recent pulling, which a close examination will disclose, he ought to disqualify. In other cases he can only fall back upon what good judgment may dictate and a reasonable interpretation of what the Standard requires.

"Any clear evidence of mutilation of fowls to better their appearance demands their prompt disqualification. We have seen, for example, a Hamburg's comb made over by taking out a triangular piece from the center and the edges brought together to reduce

its size, and the leveling of the points upon the top, and the corrugations remade, in fact, the whole comb a mass of scars. And yet that bird won the first at an exhibition in Chicago, where it was shown by the importer! The bird, of course, should have been disqualified.

"And finally, the judge should use care in his scoring, and, while performing his duties as expeditiously as possible, should examine every bird thoroughly. Great speed, united with accurate judgment, is attainable, but only as the fruit of long years of experience and extensive practice. It takes but a very brief time to thoroughly examine any bird, provided the judge knows his Standard and its interpretations. Fear, favor and the hope of reward should not influence his decisions. The birds, not their owners, should be scored. In performing his duties, the honest judge knows no man and cares for none. He sees a hundred or a thousand birds to score; this is his task, and he sets about it in a systematic way, disqualifies when he must, values defects according to sound principles, sets them down as they are, and lets the awards come as they may. If ties arise, he breaks them when notified of their existence, as his knowledge and judgment dictate, and his work done leaves to those who think they know much more than he to criticise, praise or condemn the awards he had made, with a sense of having done his duty and a mind that is not disturbed by the criticism of friend or foe. While he would be glad to receive praise for his honest endeavors to do right, he often has to be contented with the bare consciousness of having done his duty as well as he could. The kindly word which would have cheered him is often withheld. But it is not always so. There are hundreds who recognize his honesty and ability, and whose kind words are as sweet incense to him. The rose may have its thorn, but the rose is nevertheless beautiful and worth the plucking."

## PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED IN JUDGING POULTRY

Judges differ greatly as to the meaning of the Standard and very few, if any, will cut the same bird exactly the same in every section. Neither is there any other subject upon which any great number of people will agree in every detail. The thing we should strive to do is to harmonize our views as much as possible, so that exhibitors could know about what to expect when their birds were sent to the show room. As it is, if a breeder is to show under a certain judge he will send light buff birds if he is breeding that variety. If he is to show under another judge he will send dark buff birds, and so on down the list. Other judges are just as extreme in opinions as to correct shape, so that it is necessary for every breeder to study the judge even more or at least as much as he does his own birds. This necessitates breeding two strains of the same variety, which should not be. Judges should not have hobbies; they should judge by the Standard so that breeders could more nearly breed to the Standard.

A close student of the Standard has been Judge Frank Heck, of Chicago. He has had lots of valuable experience in the show room

as a judge and as an editor, and we would like to give you his ideas as to judging and proper cuts and see if you cannot gain some valuable thoughts from his suggestions that will enable us to have uniformity and more nearly harmonize our views and our cuts for various defects. In his book on the "Secrets of Expert Exhibitors" Judge Heck had this to say on judging:

"Much more rapid progress would be made by breeders if they would learn to score or judge their fowls. It is a comparatively easy matter to master one variety if we have had two or three years' experience in breeding it. After we learn the one variety, all others of the same breed will not prove much of a task because they are all alike in shape, the difference being in color or shape of comb.

"The first point to fix in the mind is that each section of the fowl is allotted a certain number of points and that the total is one hundred. For instance, in the American class, which includes all varieties of Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, etc., symmetry which means the harmonious relation of all sections of a fowl one with another, as regards shape, is valued at 4 points. Weight is given 4 points; condition, 4; head, 4; comb, 8; beak, 4; eyes, 4; wattles and ear lobes, 4; neck, 10; back, 10; breast, 10; body and fluff, 8; wings, 10; tail, 10; legs and toes, 6; making a total of 100 points. Some of these sections are divided, as for example the neck, which is given 10 points, with 4 for shape and 6 for color. The method of scoring a fowl is to determine in one's mind just how defective it is in each section and deduct this percentage of defect from the total number of points given to section. If a bird should be absolutely perfect in shape and color of all sections it would score 100 points, because there would be no deductions made. If it should be perfect in all sections except comb and the comb was 25 per cent defective, the cut would be 25 per cent of the 8 points allotted to comb, which would be 2 points. This deducted from 100 would leave 98 points, which would be the score of the bird. The same rule is followed with each section and after the per cent or the amount of defects in all the sections is determined, the total is deducted from 100, which gives the score of the bird.

"The Standard has placed a valuation upon a great many specific defects in all varieties and this makes it easier for the amateur judge to do correct work, and it also aids in producing harmony of ideas among the older judges. In the case of single combs, the Standard specifies a cut of one-half for each point (or spike) more or less than five, because each point is valued at one-half. In all single comb varieties except Minorcas and Dorkings the comb should have five perfectly shaped points. The total value of these points at one-half each is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The total value of the comb in the American class, as previously stated, is 8 points, which leaves  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points for general size and shape not including the spikes. If the comb contains seven spikes instead of five it would have to be discounted 1 point for the two extra spikes. If it was only half as good in other ways as a perfect comb there would be an additional discount of half of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points, which would be  $2\frac{3}{4}$  points, which

added to the 1 point discount for extra spikes would make the total discount or cut  $3\frac{3}{4}$ . Some of the defects usually found in combs in addition to too many or too few spikes are coarseness of texture, which should be cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 point; thumb marks, 1 to 2 points; rear of comb turning around,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 point; too large,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points; too thin or too thick at the base,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 points, and lopping over (not sufficient to disqualify), 1 to 3 points.

"With all these defects to be considered, it should be an easy matter for any experienced breeder to understand that a cut of 1 point for comb is exceptionally light, and that not one comb in a thousand or more can consistently be passed with a cut of  $\frac{1}{2}$  or perhaps  $\frac{3}{4}$ , and yet it is a common occurrence for exhibitors to look 'daggers' at the judge if an extra good comb is cut more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . A 3-point cut on comb is an exceptional one in the show today, and a 4-point cut is so seldom that an instance may not be found in several shows selected at random. But under a strict interpretation of the Standard 3-point cuts should be quite frequent. There is undoubtedly a tendency to score birds too high, but the evil is one that cannot be eliminated by the influence of one or two judges without entailing an injustice and great loss to the exhibitors affected. Two breeders exhibiting at different shows may have birds of practically the same quality and in fact this is the rule in thousands of cases. If the judge at one show is a "hard cutter," discounting the birds severely, and if the judge at the other show is a liberal one, giving high scores, the breeder who receives the low scores is at a great disadvantage, as he is compelled to advertise a score of 94, for instance, when his competitor can advertise 95, thus wrongfully influencing buyers to the detriment of the breeder with the low score. There is need for a greater uniformity in judging, and it is bound to come sooner or later.

### **PRINCIPLES AS APPLIED TO BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS**

Here Judge Heck takes a Barred Plymouth Rock and illustrates the method of applying score card to judging. The same principles may be applied to any other variety or breed, using, of course, the scale of points in the Standard of Perfection as laid down for the particular breed or variety being judged.

"The subject is one that can hardly be duplicated as regards the number of breeders and exhibitors interested in it. No variety, absolutely none, is more difficult to breed to Standard requirements. Some of the very best talent to be found in the poultry world has constantly been striving for perfection in this variety and from the testimony of some of the old time judges, we are forced to the conclusion that perfection is just about as far distant as it ever was.

"We often hear the statement that the Standard values color 40 per cent and shape 60 per cent, thus attaching more importance to shape. This is a mistake. Color is given 41 points out of the total of 100. Shape is given 51 points, which includes 4 for symmetry and 8 for comb, and the 8 for comb should really not be considered in this comparison because it is not strictly a shape sec-

tion like some portions of the body. Neither is it cut for color. The remaining 8 points are divided between weight and condition, 4 for the former and 4 for the latter. The sections that are cut for both shape and color are given 39 for shape and 41 for color, which makes the division approximately 51 per cent for color and 49 per cent for shape.

"But without specifically considering the above comparison, let us see what would be necessary for a Barred Rock to score 95 points. Suppose the bird was so near perfection that it could pass with a cut of only  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for color in neck, back, breast, body, wings, tail, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape of comb. This would make a total of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points and is assuming that the bird is perfect in color of head, including eyes, and also in color of wattles and ear lobes and legs and toes. Then suppose that in the other 12 sections it is perfect in 9 and is cut only  $\frac{1}{2}$  point each in the 3 remaining. This would make  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, and the bird would then score 95. Such a bird as described above has never been bred and never will be.

"There never was a Barred Rock that under a strict application of the Standard was absolutely perfect in any color section. Surely no breeder will deny this. Therefore, the least cut that can be given in each color section is  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Perfection of color consists of several things. The feathers should be regularly barred, the bars should be narrow, they should be parallel, they should be sharply defined, they should be free from shafting or brownish tinge or metallic sheen. The white should be a 'grayish white,' not any other kind of white, and the dark bars should be a bluish black that 'stops short of a positive black.' Every feather in every section should fit this description and every one of them should be barred clear down to the skin.

"In summing up what the highest possible score could be, we believe that the following estimate is a fair one. Taking the sections as they appear in the Standard we will apportion the cuts something like this: Symmetry, perfect; weight, perfect; condition, perfect; head perfect in both shape and color; eyes, perfect in shape and color; comb,  $\frac{3}{4}$  for shape; wattles, perfect; ear lobes, perfect in shape and color; neck,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color; back,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape; breast  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape; body and fluff,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color; wings, 1 for color; tail,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape and  $\frac{3}{4}$  for color; legs and toes, perfect in shape and color. This makes a total of 6 points and would make the score 94. Ten thousand specimens might be inspected and not one of this quality be found. In all our experience as a judge, we have never given a score of 94 to a Barred Rock. In fixing the above cuts in just the places they appear, we do not wish to convey the impression that if a 94-point bird could be found, the score card would be a duplicate of the above. For instance, the breast, back or tail may pass without a cut for shape, but if they should, there would be other sections in which the defects would bring up the total to the same amount.

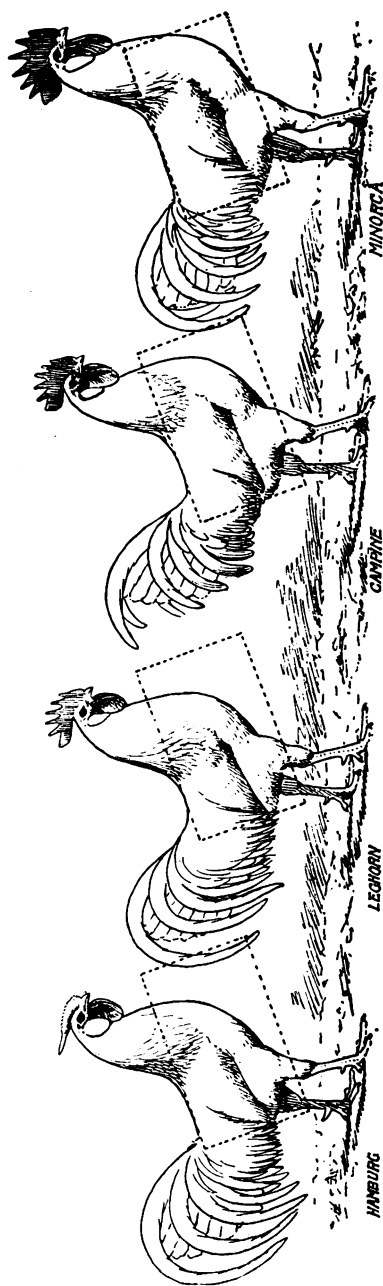
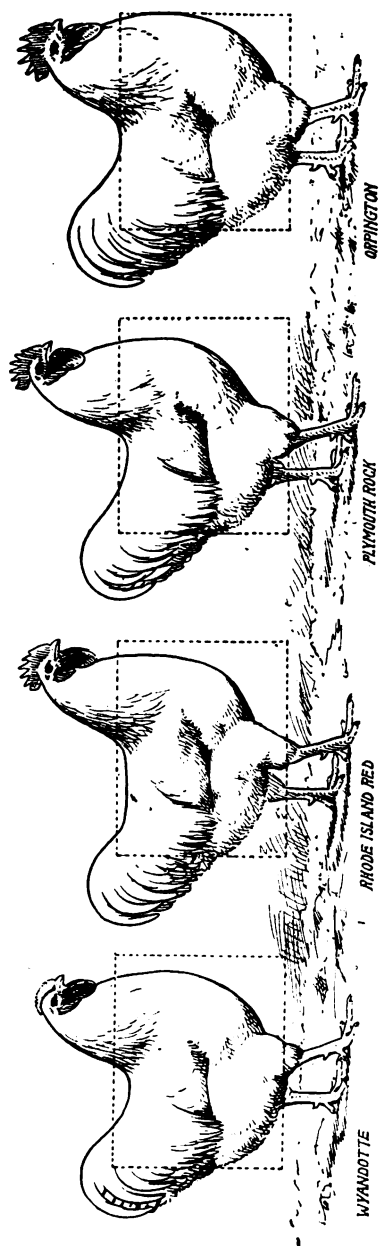
"In our opinion, a score of 94 could be reached by a pullet only. A cock bird could not get close enough to it to entitle him to a moment's consideration. A  $91\frac{1}{2}$ -point cock is a 'corker.' This is



why the Standard permits the awarding of first prize to a cock bird if he scores as high as 88, while in other classes a bird must reach 90. A cockerel that scores  $92\frac{1}{2}$  honest points is about as good as a breeder can hope to get. A 93-point hen and a  $93\frac{1}{2}$ -point pullet are about the limits in their respective classes. The average first prize cockerel at a good show in strongest competition will be found to score about as follows: Weight,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; comb, 1; neck,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape and  $\frac{3}{4}$  for color; back,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape and  $\frac{3}{4}$  for color; breast,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color; body and fluff,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for color; wings,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  for color; tail,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for shape and 1 for color; a total of  $7\frac{3}{4}$ , which would make the score  $92\frac{1}{4}$ . Cuts of  $\frac{1}{2}$  point in Barred Rock color are almost impossible if the Standard be strictly applied. The color value of the neck is 6 points. If the neck is only half as good as a perfect neck, then the cut should be half of 6, which would be three. If it were one-third defective the cut would be two. If it were one-fifth or 20 per cent defective, the cut would be practically one and one-fourth. If it were only one-eighth or  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent defective, the cut would be three-fourths. Let the reader fix in his mind the full requirements of the Standard as regards color and then ask himself if he ever saw a neck on a Barred Rock cockerel that was only one-eighth defective or  $86\frac{1}{2}$  per cent perfect? Yet in order to make the cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  we have to say that the neck was about 92 per cent perfect. The same number of points (6) are fixed by the Standard as the color value for wings. If we find a bird that is less than one-fourth defective in color of wings we have found a remarkable specimen. One-fourth of the 6 points, allowed for color of wings would give us  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, and except in most unusual cases this should be the minimum color cut in this section. We may get fairly good wing bows and secondaries, but in the primaries is where the trouble arises. Breeders are careful to conceal these when showing the wing barring. It is a tender spot and they hoodwink themselves and each other by hiding this section. They don't like to consider it. The average cockerel deserves a cut of about two points in wing color, and many of them should be cut four. If each section is carefully gone over and discounted in true proportion to the Standard values we will readily see that 92-point cockerels and 93-point pullets are rare good birds. It is not a discredit to Barred Rocks nor a reflection upon the ability of breeders that this variety does not score as high as the solid color birds. The public should be educated in the matter and amateurs should be made to understand that a 93-point Barred Rock pullet is as good a bird in its class as is a 96 White Rock pullet in its class. The same proportionate difference exists in both sexes and in young and old birds.

## TYPE DIFFERENCES

"In the following remarks we call attention to three types of fowls that are very generally confused with each other, namely, the Plymouth Rocks, the Wyandottes and the Orpingtons.



The above illustrations show not only the shape—type—but also the carriage and relative size of the different breeds. In the living specimen it is seldom that the matter of size and variation in type and the carriage is so well contrasted as shown in this illustration. The breeder and the Judge, both experienced and beginner, can well study the illustrations here shown and fix them firmly in their mind's eye. The illustrations are by Artist Schilling.

"There is an old saying known to all poultrymen but never thought of by the average breeder in the light of its full importance. We refer to the truism, 'Shape makes the breed, and color the variety.' Were it not for a few minor details, we could not possibly distinguish some of the varieties upon any other basis than the shape of their bodies. For example, take the White Plymouth Rock and the White Wyandotte. The Wyandotte has a rose comb and the Plymouth Rock a single comb, but in all other respects they are the same except in shape of body. The two types are so apt to breed alike that hundreds of birds exhibited at the shows would pass for either breed, were it not for the comb. The same is true of Buff Plymouth Rocks and Buff Wyandottes. Quite a number of the White and Buff Wyandottes found at the shows and in the yards of breeders are simply rose comb Plymouth Rocks. Buff Orpingtons are plentiful that would easily pass for Buff Plymouth Rocks were it not for white or pinkish white legs and toes. It is often necessary for the judge to look at the legs of the fowl in order to determine what breed the exhibitor claims the birds to be.

To the inexperienced person and amateur poultryman it is a most difficult matter to distinguish between these three breeds if shape alone is considered, but the breeder can never make any great progress till he has clearly fixed in his mind the shape of the one he is breeding. The types are entirely different and by observation and study of the Standard of Perfection one can soon learn the true type of each. It is, of course, impossible for a breeder to secure the proper shape in all the birds he raises, but if he knows what the proper shape is, he can discard the culls intelligently and can keep and breed from the most typical specimens, thereby increasing the average excellence of his flock.

The body proper is the most distinguishing feature but the details of neck, back, tail and breast constitute special modifications that are of great importance. In order to get a correct idea of the difference in type it is necessary to compare the illustrations in the Standard, although a fair idea may be obtained by viewing living models nearly perfect in type and by having the defects pointed out by some one who is familiar with the breeds. The word description in the Standard is sufficient in nearly every case to convey a clear idea of what is meant, but in the description of Plymouth Rock and Orpington body the wording is admittedly too similar and in fact is so nearly identical as to make it worthless without the illustrations that accompany each breed. The male Plymouth Rock has a body rather long, broad, deep, full, straight, extending well forward connecting with breast so as to make no break in outline. Fluff moderately full. The description of the Orpington body is identically the same except that the word 'full,' the sixth word in the description, is omitted. The difference is so slight as not to be worthy of consideration, the word being really superfluous in Plymouth Rock description. The Wyandotte male had a moderately short body, deep and round. Fluff, full feathered and well rounded. This is quite a difference and there is no confusion of ideas. There is just as much difference between

the Orpington and Plymouth Rock as there is between either of them and the Wyandotte. The Plymouth Rock body is much longer than either the Orpington or Wyandotte and it is not nearly so deep. It is also higher from the ground but while this feature impresses one as a shape characteristic it is really attributable to the greater length of the legs. The Wyandotte body is set on shorter legs and it is more compact. It is quite deep and short, much more so than that of the Plymouth Rock, and instead of being long it is short, deep and very much rounded with a slight cushion in the back of the female. The shape of the Orpington body is a peculiar one and somewhat difficult to describe. It is long like the Plymouth Rock but is much deeper. It may be said to be a Plymouth Rock in length and a Wyandotte in depth, although the characteristic shape of neck, back and tail so modifies the body shape that the bird as a whole presents an entirely different appearance from either of these two breeds.

A glance at the ideal picture in the Standard of Perfection will show the great difference in the three breeds.

The Plymouth Rock body is long and comparatively of the same width from front to rear. Measuring from the base of the neck hackle where the back begins, to a point immediately in front of the Rock plumage, the depth of the Plymouth Rock body should be about two-thirds of the length, measured from the most prominent point of the breast to the upper extremity of the fluff. This is about the right relative proportions of the bird.

The Wyandotte body is shorter and deeper, which makes it more rounded. It should not be so very much longer than it is deep. The difference should be hardly noticeable.

The Orpington body is as long as a Plymouth Rock and as deep as the Wyandotte. The Orpington being a larger and heavier bird appears deeper in proportion.

The length of legs in the three breeds also influences the impression one gets of the bodies of the fowls.

The Plymouth Rock legs are rather long, and those of the Orpington are noticeably shorter, while the legs of the Wyandotte should be a trifle shorter than those of the Orpington.

"The Plymouth Rock type seems to be more firmly established, by which we mean that the Plymouth Rocks are not nearly so defective as are the other two breeds. The tendency in confusion of types is toward the Wyandotte and the Orpington encroaching upon the Plymouth Rock. A Plymouth Rock is seldom seen that could be fairly good Orpington shape, but there are Orpingtons in plenty that would pass as Plymouth Rocks. The matter is not so prominent in Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes, but as between the two there are a great many more Plymouth Rock shaped Wyandottes than there are Wyandotte shaped Plymouth Rocks.

"In view of this fact, it will, therefore, be more appropriate and our comment may be better understood if we use principally the Plymouth Rock as a basis or standard of comparison. A short thick neck upon a Plymouth Rock should be cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, the latter amount being justified in case of the neck being similar

to an ideal Orpington or the other extreme, that of a Game. A Plymouth Rock possessing a Wyandotte type should be cut approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  for shape of neck, 1 for back,  $\frac{1}{2}$  for tail,  $\frac{3}{4}$  for breast,  $\frac{3}{4}$  for body and  $\frac{1}{2}$  for legs. Any one of these sections may be specially defective, which would make the cut in that section greater than specified. A Plymouth Rock female with short cushioned back like a Wyandotte female should be cut at least 1 point for this defect and the same cut could consistently be made for tail. A Wyandotte shaped like a Plymouth Rock should be cut in about the same proportion in each of the sections as above specified.

"A Wyandotte shaped like an Orpington should be cut about  $\frac{1}{2}$  point in each section except in body, back and tail of the female, which sections should be cut about 1 point. An Orpington showing the shape of a Wyandotte should be given practically the same cuts. An Orpington with the shape of a Plymouth Rock should be cut approximately as follows: Neck, 1; back 1; tail,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , breast, 1; body, 1; legs,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

"In the shape of fowls, the extremes are represented by the Minorca and the Cochin. We refer particularly to the length and depth of body. The Minorca body is long and narrow and the Cochin is a big bulky rounded mass of flesh and feathers. There is not a flat or concave surface anywhere upon the body of an ideal Cochin. All breeds other than these are modifications of these types.

A few degrees removed from the Minorca, we find the Ancona, then follows the Leghorn, then comes the Campines and further down the line comes the Hamburgs. A further deviation from the Cochin is the Orpington, and further down the line we get the Plymouth Rock, then comes the Rhode Island Red, and then the Wyandotte.

All of these breeds are so far removed from each other in this respect that the ideals are conspicuously different in type, but when we find that nature mixes things up a little for us and the breeder who possesses the skill and knowledge to mate the birds and get a goodly number of typical specimens is entitled to much credit. He generally gets it as well as the financial profit that is a possible addition to it."

### **SHAPE AND SURFACE COLOR MORE IMPORTANT THAN UNDERCOLOR**

Many judges go crazy over undercolor and there is always more or less complaint about their awards. The judge who will devote most of his time and study to good shape, good comb and head points, and good surface color will not go far wrong and will be a popular judge if other qualifications are right. These are the things which can be seen from the outside of the cage, and they are the things upon which visitors and other exhibitors who do not handle the birds will sit in judgment as to whether you are a good judge or not. If two birds were about equally good in other points, I would let the undercolor be the deciding point, but any judge who lets the markings of a Barred Plymouth Rock or undercolor of

a Buff or Red bird lead him away from correct shape and correct surface color, that judge is going to have to do a lot of explaining and meet with lots of criticism. Undercolor is important, but the judge who is lead astray by it and is a hobbist on that point will never meet with the success that he otherwise would.

But you may say that undercolor is of great importance in the breeding which is true to a great extent in many cases. But the surface color and shape are more important in most cases, and anyway these are questions which the breeder must look out for and it is only up to you to judge the birds just as you find them and according to the Standard.

## HINTS TO JUDGES

Because you have a license to judge poultry is no argument that you know more about a variety than many of the breeders who have bred them for years. Don't ever get the idea that you know it all and pass hurriedly by a coop or over a class and tie the ribbons without giving due consideration to every bird on which an entry fee was paid, whether it be good or bad.

Every exhibitor is entitled to have his birds removed from the cage and examined. The judge should give every bird that much consideration unless he can plainly see from the outside of the cage that the fowl is disqualified or absolutely unworthy of consideration, and even then it is best in most cases to remove the bird and handle it. Then if your judgment does not agree with that of the exhibitor, he has no just cause for complaint. But if you fail to handle every bird, it gives more room for justifiable complaint.

One consideration which every judge should give to every exhibitor is that of explaining his reasons for placing the awards as he does. Always be willing to show the exhibitor the defects and how to maintain and improve upon the desirable points and good qualities of his birds.

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## QUESTIONS ON JUDGING LESSON NO. 5

1. What relation does the American Standard of Perfection bear to the judging of poultry?

2. Is the score card or comparison method best for the amateur judge? Why? Which is the best and easiest method for the experienced judge? Why?

3. Why should a judge endeavor to be pleasant and agreeable even to his enemies and disgruntled exhibitors?

4. What other important qualification should a judge possess?

5. Why should one judge never criticise the work of another?

6. In attempting to judge a class, what is the first thing to do? Why is this important?

7. If you are not positive about some points relative to some class you are about to judge, is it advisable to look your Standard over before proceeding? Why?

8. Why is it important for every judge to have some set of marks and abbreviations of his own to assist or guide him in judging and making the first awards?

9. Why should birds be judged for shape before they are handled or removed from their cages?

10. As soon as a judge begins to handle the birds why should he look for disqualifications first?

11. Why does a judge make a mistake who gives undercolor preference to shape and surface color?

12. Should a judge stand by his decision even though he may feel that he might be wrong? Why? Under what circumstances would he be justified in changing his decisions and his awards?

13. In case the terms of the Standard are not clear what should then govern the judge in his decision?

14. What use ought we to make of the Standard illustrations?

15. How would you determine the percentage to cut for symmetry?

16. Why should all birds of the same variety be judged by the same light?

17. Is it best to score one breed or try judging many at the beginning? Why?

18. If the judge is in doubt about a disqualification, how should he proceed?

19. Should a judge sacrifice accuracy for speed? Why?

20. Will you try to apply yourself? Will you endeavor to do your work faithfully and honestly as you see it and try to reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon this school? You are certain to make mistakes, but unless you are willing to make your decision without fear or favor or hope of reward from friend or foe we do not want you as a graduate of our judging course, or of this school. It is no disgrace to be honestly mistaken, but it is worse than disgrace to sell out and deceive your friends and those who trust you.







# THE AMERICAN POULTRY SCHOOL

Kansas City, Missouri



**WE HELP A. S. P. H. STUDENTS  
TO SUCCEED**

## JUDGING POULTRY

Lessons Nos. 6 to 17 Inclusive

**GENERAL COURSE IN POULTRY BREEDING  
AND JUDGING**

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“A man paints on canvas the image of a Perfect Thing, and the world calls him an Artist. The Sculptor may chisel from cold marble a thing of perfect form, and he is written in History as a Master. But the painter and sculptor, at their best, produce but dead symbols. They are mere heralds of real beauty that exist in Nature or in the refined imagination. What title shall fall to the lot of the man who delves into the hidden secrets of Life itself, masters the laws of Reproduction and effects, in Flesh and Bone, a perfect Creature? Is not he who accomplishes a perfect Living Thing as truly a patron of Art as a creator of inanimate images?”

# ABOUT THE AMERICAN STANDARD OF PERFECTION

We desire to have a word with you before you begin the study of the Standard of Perfection and the answering of the questions on Judging. The information which will be derived from the study of these questions will be beneficial to the breeder who wishes to perfect his variety of poultry as well as to the person who wishes to specialize in the judging of poultry.

No judge knows all there is to know about poultry. More than that, no breeder knows all there is to know about his own breed or variety. Many are those who find fault with the Standard, and it may not be absolutely perfect, but it is a great work, prepared by the best judges and breeders and the best talent obtainable. Many times when you hear a criticism on the Standard, it comes from someone who simply has a different opinion. The best authorities differ in opinion, honestly too, with reference to religion, politics, and the breeding of other live stock, as well as poultry. However, we want you to make a very careful study of the Standard and get all you can from it. Have your own opinions if you wish, but try and make every effort to answer the questions that we ask just the way the Standard gives them, as we will grade the answers according to our understanding of the Standard of Perfection, and not according to our ideas of what the Standard should be nor according to yours, but strictly according to the Standard itself.

The purpose of the Standard of Perfection is to give us a uniform shape and color for the different varieties and breeds of poultry. Without a Standard, every man would be breeding his variety according to his own ideas and when they were brought together in a show room there would be a conglomeration of every kind and description of both color and shape, each breeder claiming his to be the correct type and color. There would be such a varied lot of ideas that the whole poultry industry would practically be in confusion. In order to avoid this, it is necessary to have a Standard so that each man, breeding a certain variety of poultry, can breed with the one description and the one idea in view. The Standard now requires each breed to have a shape distinctly its own, the shape really making the breed. The varieties of the breed are distinct and are recognized because of the difference in comb or color, the shape being the same.

The Standard of Perfection is the only recognized authority on all Standard requirements of American-bred Land and Water Fowl. Since 1874 the American Poultry Association has issued a Standard of Perfection and from time to time it has been revised and the requirements for each variety have been improved and brought down to date. This book is used universally by judges, fanciers, and breeders, and is the only recognized authority in awarding prizes in the poultry shows of the United States and Canada.

This Standard contains a nomenclature, indicating and naming each section of all breeds and varieties, both male and female. It contains a glossary, describing and illustrating many technical terms used by poultry breeders. You will find within its pages a complete list of recognized disqualifications for each American Standard-bred breed and variety. It

gives a complete Standard description of each and every recognized Standard breed of Land and Water Fowl, giving the Standard requirements in every section, weight, size, color, markings and shape. From this description you can realize the immense value of such a publication to any poultry breeder. The purpose of this set of questions is to bring out and develop in your mind some of the vital and more important things which you should know, not only with reference to your own variety, but, as to the good and bad points of every variety of poultry.

The Standard of Perfection is the final authority, rule and guide in judging poultry. There is considerable to be learned from exhibitions of every kind, whether it be of horses, corn or poultry. In every case there must be some rule to judge by, therefore, we use the Standard for the different kinds of exhibitions. We admire anyone who is competent and does produce a winning horse, a perfect ear of corn, or a prize fowl. We cannot see how anyone can fail to have an interest in such things. The person who does not like music, does not love flowers, and does not like to see development and advancement along all lines is considerably short, we believe, of what they ought to be. Even in this day of modern methods of travel, if a fine team of beautiful horses is driven up the street, it will create more interest than a hundred automobiles. Also the day is at hand when any person who is possessor of a lot of dung-hill fowls is considered very much behind the times. The person who is able to produce the champion bird in any show is looked upon as a great benefactor in his locality. And, if he never expects to judge a fowl, an accomplishment like this is well worth the time to thus know and profit by the study of the Standard of Perfection. It is true that there are some errors made in the Standard, but these will be corrected in time as breeders and judges become more experienced in the selection, judging and breeding of the different varieties of fowls.

The first and most important thing which you should do before attempting to judge poultry of any variety is to familiarize yourself with the different breeds and varieties. You should know the correct shape, the correct color, the Standard weight, the points of disqualification and the requirements of the Standard for that variety before you pass down an aisle in an attempt to place the awards. No judge ought to attempt to pass his opinion upon any bird by either score card or comparison, by simply looking at outside appearances and he can determine the quality and value of a specimen only by handling the bird and making a personal examination.

We repeat again, do not attempt, under any conditions, to use your own ideas as to the proper color and shape when judging poultry, but judge strictly according to the requirements laid down in the Standard of Perfection. If there is any doubt in your mind about any defect give the bird and the owner the benefit of the doubt.

Study the Standard diligently and with the utmost care. Get all the good you can from the knowledge compiled therein by the best breeders and judges of the land. Attempt to breed your fowls according to Standard requirements as near as you can and in addition to that endeavor to add the following desirable qualities to your poultry: First, vigor and continuous good health; second, the highest percentage of high class marketable eggs; third, the largest possible per cent of hatchable eggs and strong chicks; fourth, evenness of growth and quickness of development; fifth, the early maturing and laying of pullets from the time hatched; sixth, the hen's ability to lay for a period of years; seventh, the highest percentage of desirable birds; eighth, the ability to lay during severe weather and adverse conditions; ninth, the prepotency of cockerels. When you thoroughly understand the Standard and the above breeding principles, and are able to apply them, your success will be assured as a judge and as a breeder of Standard-bred poultry.

**USE 1915 STANDARD OF PERFECTION FOR TEXT IN ANSWERING  
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**JUDGING LESSON NO. 6**

1. What is the Standard of Perfection, and by whom is it published?
2. Why do we need a Standard and what is its purpose?
3. What is the nomenclature of a fowl, and what is its use?
4. Before attempting to judge poultry, what do you think is the first and most important thing one should study in the Standard and why?
5. What is the next most important thing to study, and why?
6. Name the different systems that are used in judging poultry.
7. Describe the difference fully in the different systems.
8. How many points are represented on the score card, and how are they divided?
9. (a) What is meant by class? (b) Breed? (c) Variety?
10. (a) How many classes of poultry are there in the Standard? (b) How many breeds? (c) How many varieties?
11. Name the breeds of the American Class and give the number of varieties in each breed.
12. Name the breeds of the Asiatic Class and give the number of varieties in each breed.
13. Name the breeds of the Mediterranean Class and give the number of varieties in each breed.
14. Name the breeds of the English Class and give the number of varieties in each breed.
15. Name the breeds of Class 5 and give the number of varieties.
16. Where did Class 6 originate, and from what did they derive their name?
17. Name the breeds of the French Class and give the number of varieties.
18. Name the breeds of Class 8 and give the number of varieties.
19. Name the breeds of Class 12 and give the number of varieties
20. Name the breeds of the Oriental Class and give the number of varieties

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 7

1. How must a judge determine the merit of a specimen?
2. Do you think it proper and best to use your own ideas as to proper color and shape when judging poultry, or should you judge strictly according to the Standard? Why?
3. For what purpose are the following breeds best adapted: (a) Rocks? (b) Orpingtons? (c) Reds? (d) Brahams? (e) Anconas? (f) Cornish? (g) Leghorns? (h) Wyandottes?
4. Where did the Leghorns originate, and what are their chief characteristics?
5. What are the chief characteristics of the Dorkings?
6. Where were the Orpingtons originated and what are their chief characteristics?
7. What can you say of the origin of the Rhode Island Reds and how do you distinguish them from other breeds?
8. Name the chief difference between Reds, Buckeyes and Redcaps.
9. Name all the differences between a Mottled Houdan and an Ancona.
10. (a) What is the disposition of the Plymouth Rocks? (b) Wyandottes? (c) Reds? (d) Orpingtons? (e) Brahams? (f) Leghorns?
11. Name the differences between the Dominiques and the Barred Rocks.
12. Describe the differences between Columbian Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmas, and Columbian Wyandottes.
13. How many breeds of Langshans are there, and what are their chief characteristics?
14. Where did the Minorcas originate, and what are their chief characteristics?
15. What can you say of the origin of the Blue Andalusian, and how do you distinguish them?
16. Name all the differences between the Brahams and the Cochins.
17. Name all the differences between a Silver Spangled Hamburg and a Mottled Houdan.
18. What breed has the most solid colored varieties?
19. (a) How would you distinguish a Black Minorca male from a Black Java male? (b) How would you distinguish the females of these same breeds?
20. How would you distinguish a Silver Penciled Hamburg female from a Silver Campine female?

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 8

1. Name your variety and state if there is any difference in the value of the sickle feathers of your variety and those of any other variety of your breed. If so, name the variety.
2. Name the different sections of a bird.
3. What is the "scale of points" and how many points in the scale?
4. Is the "scale of points" the same for every variety of a breed?
5. Is the "scale of points" the same for every breed of a class?
6. Do any two classes have the same "scale of points"?
7. Why can we not use the same "scale of points" for all breeds?
8. Do all breeds have a "scale of points"?
9. What breed, if any, has the same "scale of points" as Class One?
10. What are the three most important sections in the Games?
11. (a) How many points are given to back shape in Plymouth Rocks? (b) Cochins? (c) Leghorns? (d) Orpingtons? (e) Turkeys?
12. (a) How many points are given to breast color in Wyandottes? (b) Brahmas? (c) Minorcas? (d) Dorkings? (e) Ducks?
13. How many points are allowed wattles and ear-lobes in (a) Buckeyes? (b) White Faced Black Spanish? (c) White Crested Black Polish? (d) Cornish?
14. How would you distinguish a Buff Wyandotte from a Buff Leghorn?
15. How would you distinguish a Blue Andalusian female from a Blue Orpington female?
16. What are the differences between a Dark Brahma female and a Partridge Cochin female?
17. How do the Wyandottes compare in size and shape with the Cornish?
18. How would you distinguish a White Plymouth Rock from a White Orpington?
19. What is the meaning of a "parti-colored bird"? Name four.
20. What is meant by the term, "solid colored bird"? Name four.

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 9

1. Name your variety, and give the value of a cut for the absence of sickle feathers.
2. What is the final authority in the judging of poultry?
3. What constitutes an (a) "Exhibition pen"? (b) A "display pen"? (c) A "trio"? (d) A "pair"?
4. What is meant by "condition"? Mention four things which might cause a specimen to be cut for condition.
5. Name and define two cuts for defects of the comb.
6. Name four defects of the wing in your variety, and give the proper cuts for each.
7. (a) How much would you cut a Brown Leghorn male for one missing sickle feather? (b) Buff Orpington? (c) Black Langshan? (d) Barred Rock? (e) Silver Wyandotte? (f) R. I. Red? (g) White Cochin? (h) Partridge Rock?
8. Define a poor colored eye of your variety, and how much you would cut it?
9. Name two of the most common defects in color of your variety, and give correct cuts for each.
10. A White Orpington cock and a Buff Wyandotte cock are each minus a sickle feather. How much should each be cut for this defect?
11. How much would you cut for a missing wattle in your variety?
12. What is the minimum cut you would give for white found in the secondaries of a Partridge Wyandotte?
13. If a cock and cockerel of any variety are equally good in color and shape, both scoring the same, and were both competing for a sweep-stake prize, which should be given the preference? Why?
14. If two cockerels of the same variety scored the same and weighed the same, how would you decide this tie?
15. In case several pens were competing and all contained all young, or all old birds, and all scored the same, how would you decide this tie?
16. What would you cut for gray specks found in the plumage of white varieties?
17. If a rose comb had more than one spike, what would you cut?
18. How much would you discount for positive white found in the ear-lobe of a Buff Cochin?
19. What is the minimum cut that can be made for any defect?
20. Define the meaning of (a) "Cock Bird," (b) "Cockerel," (c) "Hen," (d) "Pullet."



## JUDGING LESSON NO. 10

1. How much should a single comb be discounted that has a thumb mark and only three serrations, the other parts of the comb being considered perfect?
2. (a) How much would you cut for "shafting"? (b) "Irregular barring"? (c) "Mealiness"? (d) "Mossiness"? (e) "Irregular Penciling"?
3. How much would you cut if you should find positive white or red in the plumage of Blue Orpingtons, Blue Andalusians, or Anconas?
4. How many distinct pencilings are required on a feather of the wing-bow of a female in the Partridge Rock, Partridge Wyandotte, and Partridge Cochins varieties?
5. How much would you discount for yellow eyes if found on any Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte variety?
6. How much for yellow eyes in Cornish Fowls and Black Langshans?
7. How much for one blind eye in any variety?
8. How much would you discount for ear-lobes one-fourth positive white in (a) Plymouth Rocks? (b) Wyandottes? (c) R. I. Reds? (d) Cochins?
9. How much would you cut for bay eyes in (a) Langshans? (b) Anconas? (c) Black Orpingtons? (d) Campines? (e) Black Hamburgs?
10. What is the meaning of the phrase, "A TYPICAL BIRD"?
11. How much would you discount for white in the face of a Brown Leghorn Cock or Cockerel?
12. How much for two black feathers in the neck of a Barred Rock?
13. How much for a red feather in the neck of (a) Black Langshan? (b) Black Minorca? (c) Barred Rock?
14. Have two Wyandotte Cockerels tied in score. One weighs seven pounds, and the other nine pounds. Which one wins?
15. How much would you discount for black feathers in the back of (a) Barred Rocks? (b) Columbian Wyandottes? (c) Light Brahmas?
16. If you had a R. I. Red with a wing that you considered about one-eighth deficient in color on fronts, wing-bows, and wing-bar; one-fourth on primaries; one-half on secondaries; then what would be your total cut for color in that section?
17. How much would you discount for two black feathers in primaries, secondaries, or main tail feathers of Barred Rocks?
18. How much for two broken feathers in primaries or secondaries of (a) White Orpingtons? (b) Brown Leghorns? (c) White Crested Black Polish?
19. How much for a missing feather in primaries or secondaries of (a) White Wyandottes? (b) Rhode Island Reds? (c) Buff Cochins? (d) Black Langshans?
20. Describe a back shape which you consider very defective.

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 11

1. A Buff Leghorn has a perfect tail except it is one-fourth black. How much would you discount that section of the bird?
2. How much would you discount for a missing main tail feather in (a) Buff Leghorn? (b) White Cochin? (c) Barred Rock? (d) Blue Andalusian?
3. Define the difference, if any, in the undercolor of a R. I. Red and a Buckeye.
4. If you should score a R. C. White Leghorn male or a Silver Spangled Hamburg male, with absence of hackle or saddle feathers, what would you discount?
5. How much discount for entire absence of main tail feathers?
6. How much for unfeathered shanks on (a) Buff Cochins? (b) Black Langshans? (c) Silver Gray Dorkings? (d) Light Brahmas?
7. How much for absence of feathers on the outer toe of (a) Brahmas? (b) Minorcas? (c) Cochins? (d) Dominiques? (e) Langshans?
8. How much for absence of feathers on the middle toe of (a) Brahmas? (b) Cochins? (c) Langshans?
9. How much would you discount the following breeds for having four toes: (a) Dorkings? (b) Orpingtons? (c) Houdans?
10. How much would you cut for web feet in any variety?
11. How much would you cut for yellow shanks or feet in (a) Minorcas? (b) Orpingtons? (c) Wyandottes? (d) Langshans?
12. What would you cut for positive white found in the primaries, or secondaries, of (a) Partridge Rock? (b) Partridge Cochin? (c) Dark Cornish Fowl?
13. A judge has a cock bird in every variety of the Leghorn Breed to score and each has white shanks and toes. What should he do?
14. He has a specimen that the owner has tried to produce the correct color of legs by the use of coloring matter. What should he do?
15. How much discount for feathers or down on shanks, or toes, of clean legged varieties or for the removal of same?
16. What would you do with a specimen that has a "scaly leg" that has destroyed the natural color?
17. If there was any doubt in your mind about any defects, then what course would you pursue?
18. In deciding a tie, other things being equal, to which would you give preference, old or young birds? Why?
19. What is the more important, good back shape or good head points? Why?
20. Which is the more important, the back or breast shape? Why?

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 12

1. Name your variety, and what are four of the most common disqualifications found in your variety.
2. What is meant by the term "Disqualification"?
3. Are all breeds disqualified for the same things as your own? If not, why?
4. Explain the difference in the terms, "Disqualification" and "Defect."
5. There is a list of General Disqualifications given near the first of the Standard, then another list with the description of your variety. Explain the use of each list.
6. Name all the disqualifications for comb defects of your variety.
7. Name all the disqualifications for shank and feet defects in your variety.
8. Name all the disqualifications for face and ear-lobe defects in your variety.
9. Name all the disqualifications for tail defects in your variety.
10. What is a "thumb mark," and where found?
11. (a) What is a "side sprig"? (b) What is a "split comb"?
12. (a) What is a "wry tail"? (b) What is a "squirrel tail"?
13. What is "faking" and name four methods of faking in your variety?
14. What would you do in case you found a twisted primary feather in the wing of a Black Java? If in the main tail feathers of a White Orpington?
15. Define "Vulture-Block" and what you would do in case you found a specimen with same?
16. How much would you cut a specimen that had the flight or secondary feathers of the wing clipped?
17. If one bird in a pen is disqualified, does that disqualify the pen?
18. (a) Does an entirely white feather disqualify a Rhode Island Red? (b) A Buckeye? (c) A Black Langshan?
19. (a) How much would you cut for the absence of spike on all Rose Combs? (b) How much for absence of blade on a single comb?
20. What would you do if you detected a painted feather?

### JUDGING LESSON NO. 13

1. Describe fully how pen scores are obtained by score card system.
2. Suppose at a show you were judging, there was a prize offered for the highest scoring bird in the show. In looking over the high scores you had made, you would find you had scored an Ancona pullet at 94½, a White Wyandotte hen 96½, a White Holland Turkey pullet 96½, a Black Langshan Cockerel 96, a Buff Rock Cock bird 95½, a White Leghorn Cockerel 96½, a Rose Comb Red hen 94½. Not being able to make the award satisfactorily to your mind you again go over these particular birds. Finding them otherwise equally good, where would you place the award?
3. In cutting for shape defects, what discount would you give a tail carried forward of perpendicular in all varieties? If any exceptions, name them.
4. State approximately the discount on a tail carried at 70 degrees on the following varieties: (a) Plymouth Rocks? (b) Wyandottes? (c) Rhode Island Reds? (d) Langshans? (e) Orpingtons? (f) Cornish Fowls?
5. State the approximate discount on (a) "wry tail," (b) "crooked breast," (c) "crooked back," (d) "crooked toes," (e) "deformed bills."
6. A Golden Seabright Bantam cock weighs 30 ounces and a hen 27 ounces; what would you cut them for weight, if anything?
7. In deciding a tie, to which would you give preference, shape or color? Why?
8. Name the prizes the following birds would receive, presuming they were the highest scoring birds in their class: (a) Barred Plymouth Rock Cock, score 88; (b) Buff Plymouth Rock Cock, score 89; (c) Silver Laced Wyandotte Cockerel, score 85; (d) Brown Leghorn Cockerel, score 88; (e) Mottled Houdan Cockerel, score 88.
9. Two Plymouth Rock Cocks equal in score, one weighs 9 pounds, and the other 9½ pounds. Which one wins and why?
10. In a sweepstake prize a Black Orpington scores 93 points, a White Plymouth Rock 94, a Buff Wyandotte 93½, and a White Crested Black Polish 93 points. Which would win first, second, and third? Why?
11. Two R. I. Red Cockerels equal in score; one weighs 6 pounds, and the other 7 pounds. Which wins and why?
12. What takes the place of weight in comparison judging?
13. Would you make the same deduction, or discount, in your awards by comparison for size, as you would for weight in scoring?
14. If a special prize was offered for first, second, and third best cockerels in the show and you had a Barred Rock scoring 93, Silver Seabright Bantam 93½, White Orpington 94, Buff Leghorn 93½, and a Black Wyandotte 95; where would you place first, second, and third?
15. How much would you cut a cock bird for one missing spur?
16. On what grounds can a protest be entered?
17. If your work should be protested, should you be a part of the committee that acts on the protest?
18. What discount would you make for "Duck Foot" found in (a) Barred Plymouth Rock? (b) Silver Campine? (c) Game Bantam?
19. Does any disqualification apply to beak? If so, what?
20. Should the typical shape of the Sussex resemble the Orpington or the Dorking?

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 14

1. Name your variety, and mention two of its most common defects in shape and give correct cuts for each.
2. Name the sections of your variety given the greatest value in shape.
3. What is the meaning of the following: (a) Cape? (b) Fluff? (c) Ser-rations? (d) Cushion? (e) Station?
4. What is your understanding of what an "unbalanced bird" means?
5. What is the meaning of the term "duck-footed"?
6. How many kinds of combs are recognized in the Standard? Name them.
7. (a) Name the different sections of a "Single Comb." (b) Of a "Rose Comb."
8. Should all single comb varieties have the same number of points on their combs? If not, name the exceptions.
9. Should all breeds have the same number of toes on their feet? If not, name the exceptions.
10. What is a "scaly leg"?
11. What is the "blade" of a comb?
12. Describe the difference in the combs of a Single Comb Red Cock and a Buff Plymouth Rock Cock bird.
13. Describe the difference in the combs of a Rose Comb R. I. Red Cock and a Partridge Wyandotte Cock bird.
14. Define the meaning (a) of "Crest," (b) of "Beard."
15. (a) Name all breeds that have a "crest." (b) Three breeds that have a "beard."
16. Define the word "Symmetry" and explain how it should be used in judging.
17. What term is used for some breeds in the place of "symmetry"?
18. Define the different sections of a wing.
19. Which should be given the most consideration in judging a fowl, shape or color? Why?
20. How many points are given to tail shape in (a) Reds? (b) Langshans? (c) Anconas? (d) Redcaps? (e) Geese?

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 15

1. Name your variety and state from what portion of the fowl you could remove off-colored feathers without disqualifying the specimen.
2. Define what you would consider a good colored eye of your variety.
3. Which should be given the greatest consideration, undercolor or surface color? Why?
4. What are saddle feathers and where found?
5. Name the sections of your variety given the greatest value in color.
6. (a) Name two varieties having laced feathers. (b) Three having penciled feathers. (c) Three with barred feathers.
7. Define the difference between a barred feather and a penciled feather.
8. (a) Define the term "creaminess" and tell where found. (b) "Brassiness" and tell where found.
9. Should the beaks, legs and toes of all varieties of a breed be the same color? If not, name three breeds that have exceptions.
10. Should the eyes of all varieties of a breed be the same color? If not, name two breeds that have exceptions.
11. Describe the different parts of a feather.
12. Draw a sketch of a "laced feather."
13. What does a "hen feathered" male bird mean?
14. (a) What is the meaning of a "frosty feather"? (b) A "mossy feather"? (c) A "mealv feather"? (d) Of "peppering"? (e) Of "shafting"?
15. What kind and colored feather would be found on the breast of a Partridge Wyandotte Female? Draw a sketch of it.
16. (a) What is a "splashed feather"? (b) Draw a sketch of a "spangled feather."
17. What varieties are required to be creamy white in color?
18. What is a "stippled feather" and what breeds have such feathers?
19. Are there any differences in the color of the male and female of your variety? If so, where and what is it?
20. Name all the differences in color between the wing of a Red Sussex and a Rhode Island Red.

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 16

1. Name your variety and has it a disqualifying weight? If so, is it for overweight or underweight?
2. Are there any breeds that have different weights for their different varieties? If so, name them.
3. When, and what is a mature specimen?
4. In scoring a specimen, how much would you discount per pound for underweight? For overweight?
5. Should the same consideration or discount for weight be given in judging by comparison?
6. If you had a cockerel and a hen of your variety, both of which were one and one-half pounds underweight, what would each then weigh? What would each be cut for this lack of weight?
7. (a) What are the Standard weights of Wyandottes? (b) R. I. Reds? (c) Brahmas? (d) Rouen Ducks?
8. If two cockerels were tied in score, one was cut for weight, the other Standard weight, which should be given the preference?
9. If two cockerels tied in score were above Standard weight, which should be given the preference?
10. If two hens were tied in score, one at standard weight, the other above, which should be given the preference?
11. If two hens were tied in score, one was cut for weight, the other above Standard weight, which should be given the preference?
12. Have two Buff Orpington Cock birds tied in score. One weighs  $9\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, the other  $11\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. Which one wins?
13. Have two Orpington pullets tied in score. One weighs  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pounds and the other  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. Which wins?
14. Should a Bantam of small size win over a larger bird? Why?
15. Is the rule for disqualifying for excess underweight eliminated at any time in the season? If so, explain fully.
16. What is the Standard weight of (a) Plymouth Rocks? (b) Langshans? (c) Leghorns? (d) Orpingtons?
17. Have two Brown Leghorn Cockerels tied in score. One weighs 5 pounds and the other  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. Which wins?
18. Name what you consider the four most important sections of a male, and define them.
19. Describe a "Wing-Bay" and a "Wing-Bar."
20. Define the different sections of the tail of a male bird of your variety.

## JUDGING LESSON NO. 17

1. How many breeds of Ducks are there? Name them.
2. How many varieties of geese are there? Name them.
3. How many breeds of Turkeys are there?
4. The Pekin Ducks and Indian Runner Ducks are generally considered the two most popular varieties. What are the distinguishing points and chief characteristics of these two breeds?
5. Name some of the distinguishing marks and peculiarities by which certain other varieties of ducks and geese are recognized.
6. How would you tell a turkey male from a female?
7. How would you distinguish a Toulouse Goose from a White Chinese Goose?
8. Which, in your opinion, are the two best varieties of Turkeys, and why? Name their chief characteristics.
9. How would you distinguish an Aylesbury Duck from a Pekin Duck?
10. How would you distinguish an Embden Goose from a Wild Canadian Goose?
11. What are caruncles and on what fowls are they found?
12. Which is the heaviest variety of poultry?
13. A White Holland adult Turkey Cock weighs 25 pounds. What should he be cut for weight?
14. What would you do if you were judging and should find a Pekin Duck with a scoop bill?
15. Name all the disqualifications of an Adult Bourbon Red Turkey tom.
16. If you found a twisted feather in the flights of an Embden goose, what would you do?
17. If you should find a wing of an Egyptian gander clipped, how much would you discount the specimen?
18. Name the most important disqualifications for turkeys, ducks, and geese.
19. What is the most important feature of an Indian Runner Duck?
20. What would you cut for clipped wings if found on a (a) Pekin Duck? (b) Canadian Goose? (c) Bronze Turkey? (d) Brown Leghorn?



# Applying the Science of Judging

By T. E. QUISENBERRY, E. C. BRANCH, V. O. HOBBS and

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**Y**OU have no doubt heard many times the quotation, "Poultry Judges are born and not made." This may be so to a certain extent, although not wholly true. The fact that the man or woman who has in their nature a love for the beautiful and symmetrical, in not only fowls, but stock of all kinds, will with the proper training and study, make a better judge and breeder than the one who gives no thought to anything but the defects in such stock and fowls, and does not at first recognize the beautiful.

Many exhibitors and breeders make the statement that the average judge cannot see anything in their fowls but the defects. This in our opinion is not so. The average judge when looking at a specimen the first time will see what there is beautiful, then the defects will come to him one by one, until he finally gets the proper valuation of the specimen.

The American Standard of Perfection recognized in its description of each breed and variety only the perfect specimen and allots to this specimen 100 points, which mean perfection. This is what the successful judge and breeder must have in his eye and mind at all times. However, the Standard of Perfection also recognizes the fact that certain defects may be found in specimens of all breeds and provides certain discounts from the 100 points, or perfection, which must be deducted from the scale denoting the perfect specimen.

There is some latitude given in the amount that can be deducted for a given defect. For instance, creaminess on certain varieties from one-fourth to one and a half points, and this is one of the reasons why two judges will rarely score a specimen exactly the same. Differences in light, color blindness, leniency in interpreting the defect, are some of the main reasons for differences of opinions between judges or breeders.

It will be our endeavor in the following pages to give you approximately the correct discount for the defects generally found in the different breeds and their importance in the breeding yards.

The successful breeder today must be a competent judge of his breed, must have a good knowledge of the requirements of the Standard of Perfection and know how to apply it, also a practical knowledge of the most important defects generally found, as well as their detriment in the breeding yards.

## METHODS OF HANDLING FOWLS IN COOPS

Perhaps the first thing that a judge or breeder should learn is how to take a fowl from and return it to the coop properly. There are several methods employed, both good and bad. You should remember that there are severe discounts given in the Standard of Perfection for broken feathers both in wing and tail, therefore, whatever method you use should be one in which there is no possibility of breaking either the wing or tail feathers. The method usually employed is to make the specimen face the door of the coop, then with your right hand grasp the left wing of the specimen between the *shoulder* of the wing and where it joins on the body. Draw the specimen gently through the door, placing your left hand under the keel bone and sliding it back so as to grasp the thighs or shanks of the specimen when it comes out of the door. This method prevents any struggle on the part of the specimen and there is absolutely no danger of breaking any feathers on the fowl.

Another method is to place both hands on the wings and over the body of the specimen, lifting it from the coop in that manner. This method has the disadvantage in that a strong, vigorous bird is able to use his feet and sometimes some serious cuts and scratches are the result.

Another method is to secure either one or both legs of the specimen and bring the bird out of the coop backwards. This should never be done. When doors are small, this method generally results in broken feathers, especially sickle and wing feathers. Geese and ducks should be handled by the head and neck, as it is practically impossible to handle them by the wings on account of their strength. The methods of handling turkeys are numerous and each judge and breeder will have to employ methods suitable to the coops the specimens are shown in. Just as much care should be employed in returning specimens to the coops as is used in taking them out. Many exhibitors want to show their best specimens at more than one show and if feathers are broken it may destroy their chances of winning at some future show. All specimens should be returned to the coops, head first, holding the wing so there will be no opportunity of the flights or primaries being caught between the wires of the coop and broken by the struggle of the specimen.

## DISQUALIFIED BIRDS SHOULD NOT BE USED IN BREEDING PENS

There are certain defects in some breeds and varieties that are considered of sufficient importance to render the specimen unfit for either the show or for the breeding yards and these defects are termed Disqualifications. It is rarely advisable to use a disqualified specimen in the breeding yards, as such disqualifications generally denote a retrogression or reversion to defective ancestry.

It has only been in recent years that such great progress has been made in the beauty and utility of the different fowls,

and we must give credit to the breeders who by intense study and application have made possible the production of such specimens that are so near Perfection.

There are certain disqualifications applying to all breeds, others applying to only certain breeds. The former is called General Disqualifications, the latter Breed Disqualifications. We shall not attempt to enumerate all of them in this lesson but shall call to your attention the ones that are most often found on the breeds mentioned.

## SOLID AND PARTI-COLORED VARIETIES

For convenience, we shall divide the varieties in the Standard in two classes, namely, the Solid Colored Varieties and the Parti-colored Varieties.

The solid colored varieties are composed of all the varieties which are of solid color, that is, as White, Buff or Black. The Parti-colored varieties are those that have two or more colors in combination, such as the Barred, Silver Penciled or Partridge Plymouth Rocks, the Silver and Golden Laced Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Columbian Plymouth Rocks, Columbian Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Houdans, White Crested Black Polish, in fact, all specimens having two or more colors.

There are certain varieties of different breeds that have the same color scheme. For instance, the Partridge Plymouth Rock, Partridge Wyandottes and Partridge Cochins should be exactly alike in color; shape, of course, being different. Columbian Plymouth Rocks, Columbian Wyandottes, and Light Brahmas are identical in color, as are the Silver Penciled Plymouth Rocks, Silver Penciled Wyandottes and the Dark Brahmas.

There are two distinct forms of penciling in the Standard. Crescentic in form as in the Partridge varieties and straight across the feather as in the Penciled Hamburgs. However, the latter is sometimes called barring, although not recognized as such in the Standard.

## IMPORTANCE OF SCALE OF POINTS

One of the first and most important things the judge or breeder must familiarize himself with in the Standard of Perfection is the Scale of Points. This will tell him all the different sections of the fowl and the sections that are considered the most important, both in shape and color. Without a practical knowledge of the Scale of Points, you cannot expect to intelligently apply the proper discounts, either by the Score Card or Comparison System of Judging. There is a mistaken idea among many that the Scale of Points does not necessarily apply in Comparison judging but only in Score Card. The Standard of Perfection is explicit in its instructions to judges in applying the Comparison System. It says that judges must consider carefully each and every section of the specimen, according to the Scale of Points. Therefore, the following discounts should apply in both the Score Card and Comparison Systems of Judging—the only difference being that in one case the discount

would be marked on a score card and in the other, checked either on the coop card or judge's card.

As before stated, there are no two judges or breeders who can, or do, interpret the Standard or the importance of defects in fowls just alike. Still, those who have made a thorough and conscientious study of the Standard, and its application as pertains to the different breeds, are very close together. The Standard of Perfection, having placed a valuation upon a great many specific defects of the different varieties, makes it easy to do correct work and to harmonize the ideas of judges and breeders who are students of the Standard.

### APPLICATION OF DISCOUNTS

We will now take the Scale of Points and follow it section by section and see how the discounts should be applied to the defects as generally found in the show room.

First, we find Symmetry, which is allotted four points. Symmetry means perfection of proportion or a harmonious blending of all the sections of a fowl, viewed as a whole. There

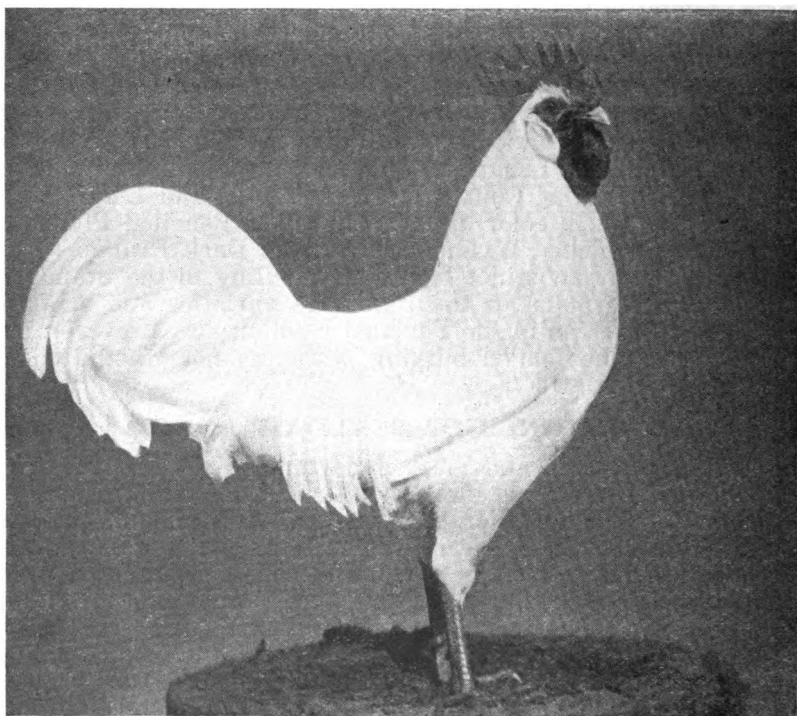


Figure 1.—A symmetrical specimen on which there should be no cut or discount for "Symmetry."

has been much argument for and against, as to whether this section was not an inconsistency, but it is in the Scale of Points and must be taken into consideration. In applying this sec-

tion, you must have in your mind the perfect specimen of the breed represented and if you think that the specimen you are judging is not typical in representation of the breed, you should discount it whatever per cent you think it is from perfection. If 50 per cent defective, two points would be the cut; if 25 per cent, one point; if less than 25 per cent, one-half point would be a small discount. In discounting for Symmetry, you should not take any one section of the fowl into special consideration, but study all sections as a whole, taking carefully into your consideration the written description of the fowl as given in the Standard. Perhaps the neck might be a little too large, or the breast a little too full for the written description, still harmonizing with the rest of the body which might be practically perfect. In such a case, Symmetry should be checked as perfect and the neck and breast discounted for shape. There could be several examples given in which Symmetry could be passed as perfect and still some sections in the fowl discounted for shape. These are close points, however, and must be determined by the judge, in each case giving due consideration to the effect upon the particular specimen he is judging.

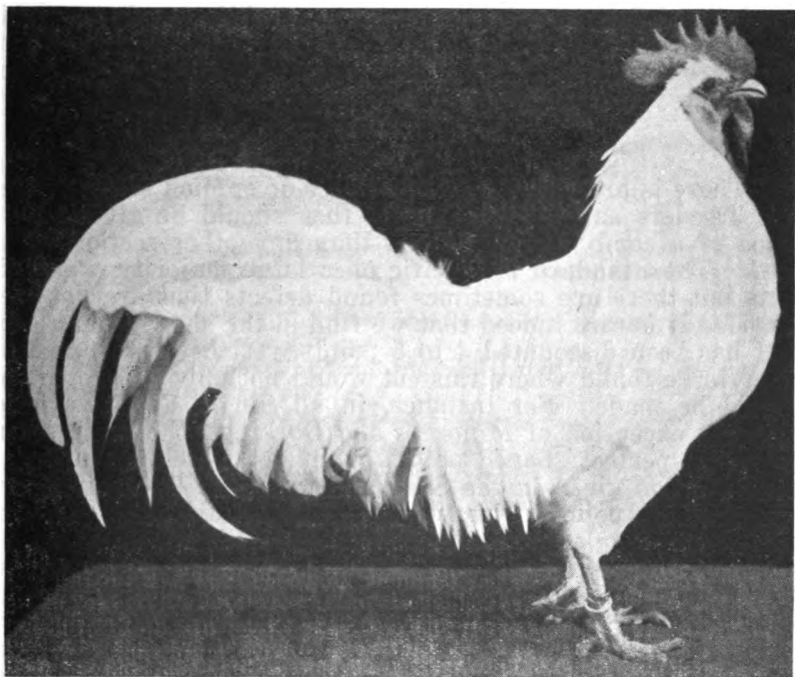


Figure 2.—This specimen should be discounted at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points on "Symmetry." Note that the neck and back are not properly joined, neither is the back and tail. The body is not properly balanced on the legs, and the legs are not long enough proportionately for the size of the body, neither are they set on the body to give a properly balanced effect to the specimen.

In all Scales of Points, with two exceptions, Symmetry is used. In these two, the term Station is substituted. The same per cent would be used in making discounts, but as Station is given 10 points, a specimen that would be 50 per cent defective would be discounted 5 points; 25 per cent,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points.

### WEIGHT

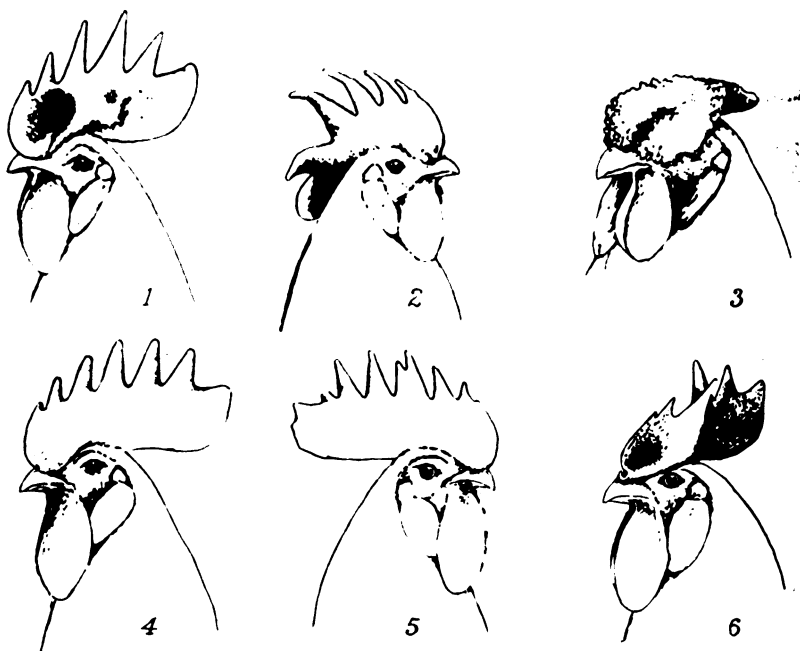
Weight comes next, with from 2 to 18 points allowed in different breeds. In four Scales of Points, size is substituted for weight and one has neither weight nor size. The Standard specifies distinctly just what discounts shall be made for under-weight and over-weight, and you should discount neither no more nor no less.

### CONDITION

Condition comes next, with from 4 to 10 points allowed. There are several things we find that a fowl can be discounted for in Condition. For instance, if a specimen is put in the show room in a dirty condition, feathers dirty and legs covered with filth and scale, discount from 1 to 2 points. A white specimen that has been washed and too much bluing used in the water, discount 1 point. Sickness in any form, discount from one to 2 points. Where specimens have been fighting and are considerably mussed up, discount one-half to 1 point for Condition. These are the things that are most often found in the show room for which you should discount on Condition.

### COMB

There is probably more difference of opinion among judges and breeders as to the discounts that should be given on the value of a comb on a specimen than any other section of the fowl. The Standard is specific on a large majority of the defects but there are sometimes found defects that are not mentioned. It is rare indeed that we find in the show room a comb that has been discounted 4 to 5 points, yet there are numerous cases to be found where this cut would not only be proper, but should be made. For instance, in all Single Comb varieties, with the exception of Minorcas and Dorkings, the comb should have five perfect shaped points or spikes, which, according to the valuation given in the Standard, would be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points, one-half for each point. This would leave the balance of the comb with a valuation of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points. In the Mediterranean class, the valuation given the comb in the Scale of Points is 10 as against 8 in the American and English classes. Presuming that the comb had been frozen off, leaving nothing but the base, the comb would be at least 50 per cent deficient, which would make the discount 4 points in one instance and 5 points in the other. Yet we rarely see such a cut made, which neglect, in our opinion, is unfair to the breeder who properly cares for his stock and puts them into the show room with combs in the best possible condition. Presuming further that the comb only had 3 spikes on it, or perhaps 7, this comb would have to be cut 1



### MALE HEADS SHOWING DEFECTIVE COMBS

1 THUMB MARK

2 LOPPED (SINGLE)

3 HOLLOW CENTER

~~4 SIDE SPUR~~

5 UNEVEN SERRATIONS

6 TWISTED

Figure 3.—Showing defective comb.

1. Should be discounted 2 points—1 point for thumb mark,  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for wrinkles at base of comb and  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for wrinkles in rear of thumb mark.

2. Should be disqualified from the fact that a portion of the comb falls below the level where it starts to lop.

3. Should be disqualified from the fact that it falls on the head so far as to obstruct the sight.

~~4. Should be disqualified for a side spur.~~

5. Should be discounted  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points presuming the texture of the comb was all right;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points for the extra points on the comb;  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for the point on the blade and,  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for under line from the head to the rear of the comb.

6. Should be cut from 3 to 4 points according to the texture of the comb. Generally in a twisted comb we find the following: Front of comb covering one or both nostrils, a thumb mark caused by the twist, serrations very uneven, depth of serrations very uneven and often the rear of comb turning around.

point for the missing or extra spikes. Perhaps we find two small points on the blade of the comb which should be smooth and free from serrations, this would necessitate the cut of 1 point more. Then we find a thumb mark on the comb which if deep and toward the rear, generally has the effect of drawing the rear of the comb around. The thumb mark should be cut 1 point and the rear of comb from one-half to 1 point. If the comb is perfect in every other respect, this would be a cut of from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 points. Added to this, a cut of from one-half to 1 point for coarse texture; a cut of one-half to 2 for general shape, too large or too small, too thick or too thin at base, saw tooth serrations, blade not following the angle as described in certain varieties; comb turning over but not sufficient to disqualify, 1 to 2 points. It can readily be seen that with all these defects to be considered, the experienced breeder will understand that a cut of 1 to 2 points for comb is exceptionally light and 3 to 4 points would be more consistent on most of the combs found in the show room today, according to a strict interpretation of the Standard.

In Rose Combs, the defects are just as numerous. Coarseness, or the small rounded points on top of the comb being irregular, or not uniform in shape, or texture, should be cut one-half to 2 points; hollow center, generally 1 point; over size and falling over to one side (not enough, however, to obstruct the sight, which is a disqualification) should be cut 1 to 2 points. A comb with 3 spikes on the rear should be cut 2 points, 1 point each for the two extra spikes. As with the Single Comb varieties, when all the defects are properly considered, it is rare indeed that we find a Rose Comb that can consistently be passed with a cut of 1 point—more often 2 to 3 points.

The Pea Comb is perhaps bred as true to Standard form as any of the varieties of combs. The defects most generally found on this comb are absence of serrations, especially so on the two outer rows, comb not setting straight on the head, and twisted comb. As there are no specified number of serrations quoted for a Pea Comb, the uniformity of size of serration is more important than the number. The two outside rows should be lower and smaller than the row in center, but the serrations should be just as distinct. Discounts should be made as follows, for lack of serrations on outer rows of comb, 1 point for each row; twisted or soft comb, 1 to 2 points.

The V shaped comb is not considered of much importance in the Standard, it only being given a valuation of 2 points in the Scale of Points. This comb is found on varieties that wear a Crest, and, as a rule, the crest obstructs the comb from view. However, proper consideration should be given this comb, and a comb with only one horn should be given a discount of 1 point or 50 per cent of the total valuation of 2 points.

The Strawberry Comb is rarely seen in the show room. However, there is one variety, the Malays, if the males are shown, dubbed, the judge must discount the full valuation for the comb as given in the Scale of Points.



## HEAD

We now come to the sections of the fowl on which a valuation is placed for both shape and color. The head is our first section to be considered and is composed of the part of the fowl to which the comb, beak, wattles and lobes are attached. As provided in the Scale of Points, the head is composed of the skull and face.



Figure 4.—See cut, page 28, Principles of Mating and Breeding.

This head shows very defective in shape. The skull is raised on top, causing a break in the outline where skull joins neck and the face is sunken. These defects should be cut at least 1 point.

The beak is also too long and should be cut  $\frac{1}{2}$  point, this cut coming under Beak in the Scale of Points.

Discounts should be made for shape as follows for the defects most generally found: skull protruding on top giving a raised appearance, one-half to 1 point; sunken face, one-half to 1 point; head too short or too long, one-half to 1 point. The judge must use discretion in making cuts, for the reason that he cannot cut more than the valuation given in the Scale of Points. For instance, presuming we found the three defects above named in a specimen in their worst form and felt that a cut of 1 point for each defect would be a reasonable cut, we would have a total of 3 points discounted for head shape, while the Standard allows only 2 points for head shape in the Scale of Points. This should impress on you the importance of knowing well the Scale of Points before you start judging. The Scale of Points differs in certain varieties in regard to head color. The defects that most generally are found in head color are, white in face of Mediterranean Cocks, which should be discounted from one-half to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points (white in the face of Mediterranean Cockerels and Pullets, disqualifying); red directly above the eyes of White Faced Black Spanish, one-half to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points; paleness in face of any red faced variety, one-half point; above the eyes of White Faced Black Spanish, one-half to 2 points.

## BEAK

Defective shaped beaks are generally confined to being either too long or too short or not properly curved (See figure 4). A cut of one-half point for each of these defects is generally about right, only in extreme cases. Beaks deformed in any manner is a disqualification. In color, there are many defects to be found and I shall enumerate only the most important. In all varieties that should have yellow beaks, black stripes should be cut one-half to 1 point. If the black shows only on the lower mandible, it is not considered of as much importance as if on the upper mandible. White stripes in black or horn colored beaks should be cut from one-half to 1 point.

## EYES

The color of the eyes is generally determined not by the pupil or center of the eye, but by the iris or part that surrounds the pupil. The pupil of most varieties is dark in color, but the iris is of several different colors. For instance, the reddish bay of the Plymouth Rocks, the black or dark brown of the Langshans, to the yellow or pearl of the Dark Cornish. Cuts for defects in color should be made as follows: Presuming we found a Plymouth Rock with eyes the standard color of the dark Cornish, or vice versa, the defect should be cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Red eyes in Campines must be cut 2 points. A reddish bay eye where it calls for a dark brown in color, should be cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Where the color of eye is not very defective, the cut should be one-half point, up, according to the seriousness of defect. Often you will find one eye is of correct color, while the other is not. If such is the case, make the cuts just one-half of the above discounts. Shape cuts for eyes are generally confined to where the eye has been destroyed. If entirely gone, cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points; if just the sight has been destroyed but the eye retains its form, a cut of one-half or 1 point in color is proper, as the shape of the eye has not been injured.

## WATTLES AND EAR LOBES

These are considered very important sections, especially so in the Mediterranean Class, being allotted in this class, 4 points for Shape and 6 points for Color. Practically all other classes are allotted 2 for shape and 2 for color. We shall first take shape into consideration and consider the defects most often found. In nearly every variety the Standard calls for wattles that are fine in texture and free from folds and wrinkles. These are the defects most often found in the wattles, and wattles coarse in texture should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. Wattles that are wrinkled should also be discounted from one-half to 1 point. Often, too, it will be found that one wattle will be larger than the other, that is, they will be uneven in size. This calls for a cut of one-half point. Torn wattles are also a common defect and should be discounted one-half point. In color, we rarely find wattles that deserve a discount.

Ear lobes are a very important section of the fowl from the fact that a number of defects are classed as disqualifications. For instance, any positive enamel white will disqualify any of the Plymouth Rocks which are in the American class. However, there are a number of other breeds in this same class that positive enamel white does not disqualify, so that we should learn thoroughly the difference between the disqualifications that apply to a class and those that apply only to a breed. For example, we will consider the American Class. In this class we find that the Plymouth Rocks, the Javas and the Dominiques are disqualified for positive enamel white in ear lobes, while one-quarter positive white is permitted in the ear lobe of the Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Buckeyes, all these fowls being in the American class. However, positive enamel white showing in the ear lobes of any of the above varieties is considered a very serious defect and should be discounted from one-half to 2 points, which is the limit for color cut in the above varieties. In the Mediterranean class all the breeds with the exception of the Ancona and the White Faced Black Spanish, one-third red is permitted in the ear lobe before being a disqualification. The Anconas are allowed one-half. Considering the fact, however, that in the Scale of Points for the Mediterranean class, wattles and ear lobes are allotted 6 points for color, the defect is considered more serious in this class than in any other and should be cut accordingly. A very defective lobe in a Leghorn, showing nearly one-third red, should be discounted at least 3 points. A very common defect found in the show room is creamy white ear lobes in White Leghorns. White Leghorns are not given the latitude the other varieties of Leghorns are given, the Standard calling for a white lobe in the White variety and white or creamy white in the other varieties. Creamy ear lobes in White Leghorns should, therefore, be discounted from one-half to 1 point, according to the seriousness of the defect. In all breeds which should have red ear lobes, white is a serious defect and should be treated accordingly and in all breeds having white or creamy white lobes, red is just as serious a defect and should be cut from one-half point to the limit allowed in the Scale of Points for the breed.

## NECK

More importance has been given in the Scale of Points to the color of this section, in the American class, than to shape. This, we believe, is from the fact that it seems to be the tendency of all varieties of parti-colored fowls in the newer breeds, and especially so in the males, to have lighter colored necks than any other section on the fowl. The older breeds such as the Polish, Hamburgs and French breeds are allotted the same amount of points for color as for shape, while the Games and Game Bantams are allotted more for shape than for color. In Runner Ducks, Geese and Turkeys, shape is also of more importance than color in this section. The written description of the shape sections of all varieties should be carefully studied so

that you may get an intelligent idea of proportion on the different breeds and varieties. For example, the description given for the neck of the Plymouth Rock male is "Rather Long," while the description for the female reads "Medium in length." This would indicate that the neck of the female should not be as long in proportion as the neck of the male which is correct in the ideal specimen. The neck of the Wyandotte should be short, while that of the Rhode Island Red is described as being of medium length. It is important in judging that these terms be well understood and used proportionately with the size of the fowl. For example, the neck of the Ancona is described as long and so is that of the Game fowl. Measured in inches, the neck of the Game would be longer than that of the Ancona, but in proportion to the bodies, they are both described as long. The most important defects that are generally found in the different breeds are as follows: In Plymouth Rocks, necks too long and slender, not arched or too flat just back of the skull. These defects should be discounted from one-half to 1 point for each defect. In Wyandottes, the defect most often found is a flatness at the base of skull. This should be discounted 1 point. A very common defect in the Orpington varieties is the length of the neck. The Standard description reads: "Neck rather short." But it is not unusual to see Orpingtons in the show room with necks so long that they would better fit the description "Long." Such a defect should be discounted at least 1 point. The extreme length of neck required is probably in the Games and the Runner Duck, both being described as "Long." There is no section of the fowl in which we find such variations of color as in the neck. The more common color defects are as follows: In all white varieties, perhaps creaminess of feather is more often found than any other defect. This should be discounted one-fourth to 1 point; grey specks or ticking, one-half to 1 point, uneven or V-shaped barring in Barred Plymouth Rocks, one-half to 1 point; absence of barring in under color, or gray or white under color, should be cut 1 to 1½ points. In Partridge varieties such as Partridge Plymouth Rocks, Partridge Wyandottes and Partridge Cochins, the common defects found in the males are, lemon hackle, which should be discounted 1 to 1½ points; red edging on neck hackle failing to extend around the end of feather which leaves a black tip. This defect should be discounted 1 point. Gray in base of neck hackle, discount 1 to 1½ points. Center of neck feathers on female, solid black, or absence of penciling, discount one-half point. Neck of female smoky or too dark in color, discount one-half to 1 point. Lemon neck in females, discount 1 point. While the color description of the dark Brown Leghorn male does not read the same as the Partridge varieties in the Standard, still the color effect is practically the same and the above defects and cuts will apply to the Dark Brown Leghorn male. In the Silver Penciled varieties the defects are practically identical, except that instead of the rich brilliant red edging of the Partridge varieties, the Silver varieties have an edging of silvery white around the feather and often we find this silvery

edging with a brown, rusty appearance which should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. In the Black varieties, purple sheen or purple bars is the most common defect, which should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. The common defects in the Buff varieties are color of neck, too light or too dark to harmonize with the body color, an dwhite or smoky under color. These defects should be discounted from one-half to 2 points, according to how serious you consider the defect. Rhode Island Red males are often found with striping in the base of neck hackle. This is a serious defect and should be discounted 1 to 1½ points; slight ticking on the tip of the feather of males, one-half point; gray or white in base of neck, 1 to 2 points; yellow or orange neck, 1 to 2 points; mahogany or brown necks in females, 1 to 2 points; absence of ticking on lower neck feathers of females, one-half point; smut in under color of both male and female, 1 to 2 points. There are quite a number of breeds in the Standard in which the neck color is practically the same on different varieties. The same defects prevail in all and the same discounts will apply to all.

### WINGS

In practically every breed in the Standard, the same amount, 10 points, is allotted to Wings—Shape 4, Color 6. Geese are one of the exceptions, this class being allowed 12 points—Shape 6, Color 6. Taking shape into consideration first, we find the same defects in practically all breeds.

The most common shape defect found is twisted wing, or twisted feathers in the primaries or secondaries. This is a serious defect, not only in the show room but in the breeding flock

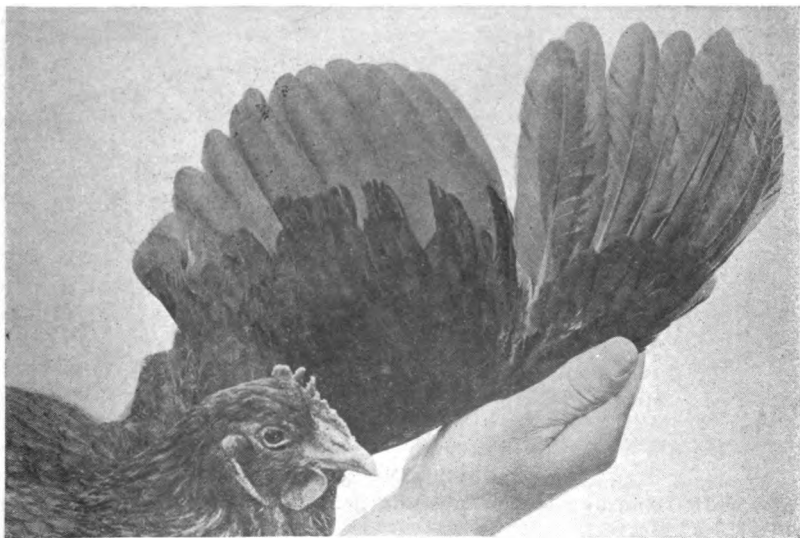


Figure 5.—Shows a split wing—on opening the wing there is found a space or split between the primaries and secondaries. This defect should be discounted 1 point.

as well, and should be discounted from 1 to 2 points. Another defect that seems to be growing each season is what is termed a split wing.

This defect, as a rule, cannot be seen when the wing is folded (although sometimes noticeable when the specimen is standing at ease), but as soon as opened, a space is found between the primaries and secondaries, appearing as though there were one or two missing feathers. Upon close examination, however, it will be seen that no feathers are missing but the defect is caused by the conformation of the wing joints, which prevents the primaries and secondaries from growing close together at the joint. This defect should be discounted 1 point. Another defect, which, however, is frequently found in the show

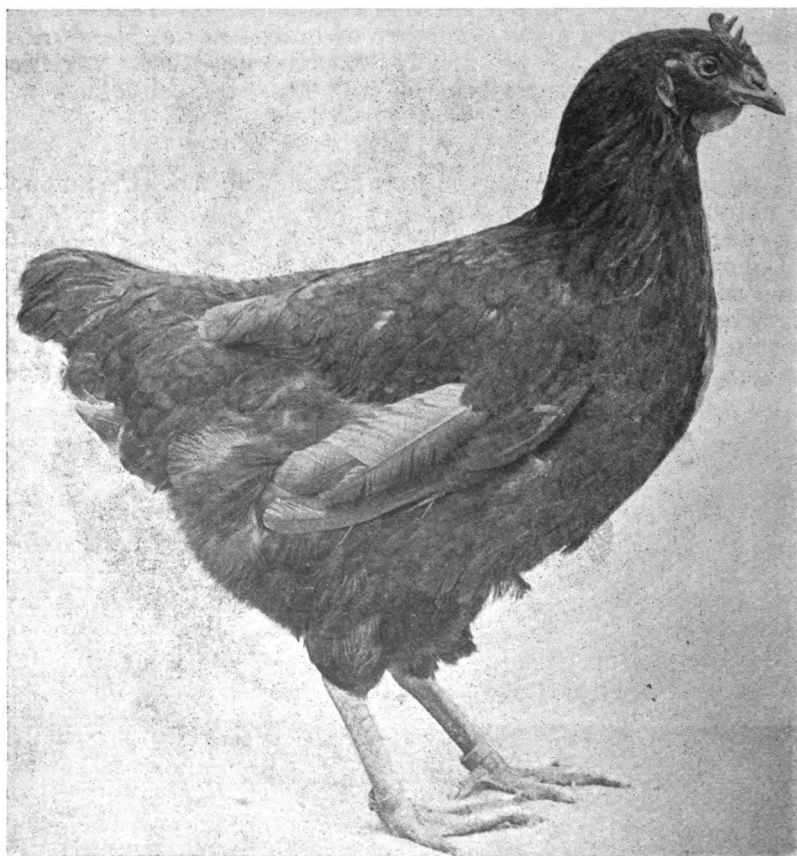


Figure 6.—Shows a slipped wing. This is a very serious defect both in the show room and in the breeding pen. Such defect should be discounted 2 points.

room, is a slipped wing. This can be readily seen without handling the fowl. The specimen not being able to properly fold the wing, carries it in a hanging position, the primaries generally being

exposed to view at all times. This defect should be discounted 2 points. Missing feathers should be discounted one-half to 2 points. Another defect often found, especially in the American Class, is a low drooping wing carriage. Specimens in the American Class should carry the wings well up or about horizontal, often though we find them carrying a drooping wing, more like the carriage of the Leghorn wing. This detracts from the appearance of a specimen in either the American, Asiatic or English class and should be discounted from one-half to 2 points, according to the seriousness of the defect. There are other minor defects in wing shape that are sometimes found, but the above are the most serious and most often found. Twisted wing will disqualify a specimen in either Ducks or Geese. Clipping either the primaries or secondaries of any variety in the Standard, with the exception of wild geese or ducks, will disqualify.

Now we come to wing color which is allotted 6 points. In order that the wing should not be penalized too heavily in any one place, it was divided into three sections, allowing 2 points to each section, and explicit instructions are given in the Standard that Judges must place no greater value on these sections than allotted. Two points are given for primaries and primary coverts; two for secondaries, and two for wing fronts, wing bow and wing bar. There are so many color defects in the wings of the different varieties and breeds that it will be practically impossible to enumerate them all, but we shall endeavor to name the defects most often found, giving the discounts which should be made for same.

There are numerous color disqualifications for wing color and these disqualifications should be studied thoroughly before a judge attempts to place awards in the show room, and knowing them thoroughly will be of great assistance in helping make the proper discounts for missing feathers in wing. For instance, two or more solid black primaries, secondaries, or main tail feathers in Barred Plymouth Rocks would be a disqualification. In "Cutting for Defects," judges are instructed that for a missing feather or part of feather in primaries or secondaries where foreign color disqualifies, to discount from 1 to 2 points. Instructions are also given that for a missing feather or feathers, where foreign color does not disqualify, to discount only from one-half to 1 point. According to these instructions, we find that if in a Barred Plymouth Rock, two feathers are missing from either the primaries or secondaries, we must discount the penalty where foreign color disqualifies because two black feathers in either section would disqualify. Whereas, if only one primary or secondary feather was missing, we should use the penalty where foreign color does not disqualify, for the reason that one black primary or secondary feather would not disqualify a Barred Plymouth Rock. Therefore, the discount for the missing feathers in the first case would be 2 points and in the second case one-half to 1 point. In all Partridge varieties, except Dark Cornish, positive white in main tail feath-

ers, sickles or secondaries, is a disqualification. Therefore, the least cut that can be made for a missing feather in these sections is 1 point, while a missing feather from the primaries of either variety should be discounted one-half to 1 point. All White and Black varieties are subject to color disqualifications and each missing feather in either primaries, secondaries or main tail should be discounted 1 point.

It has been a question among many judges as to whether the above discounts should be made for color or shape. In our opinion, all broken or missing feathers should be discounted for shape and not for color, for the reason that a broken or missing feather destroys the perfect shape of the section from which the feather is missing. On the other hand, it is contended that a missing feather from a wing or tail, for instance, in the Barred Plymouth Rock, destroys the perfection of color which is only attained by having the bars run in an unbroken line straight across the wing or tail. It is, of course, a impossibility for a judge to tell the color of the missing feather or feathers, hence we discount for shape and not color.

Irregular barring in primaries and secondaries of Barred Plymouth Rocks, smoky or indistinct color of these sections, should be discounted 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points; brassiness or silver sheen on wing bows should be discounted 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. The judge must, however, keep in mind that no one of the wing sections can be discounted more than 2 points, because 2 points for each division is all that is allowed, as before stated. Partridge varieties often show gray splotches on primaries, this defect should be discounted from one-half to 1 point, according to the amount found. Gray in the base of the primaries should be discounted 1 point. Wing color in Partridge and Brown Leghorn females is an important section. Lack of penciling, or mossy centered feathers on wing bows, should be discounted one-half to 1 point, while brick color, or absence of stippling on wing bows of Brown Leghorn females should be discounted 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. In Silver Laced and Silver Penciled varieties the most serious defect generally found is brassiness on the wing bows and gray in the primaries of males, and mossiness in females. Each defect should be discounted from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Black varieties often show not only a purple sheen on the wing bows, but distinct purple bars on both the wing bar and secondaries. If purple bars show very distinctly, a cut of 2 points is permitted; if indistinct, however, a cut of 1 point is about right. Gray is rarely found in black varieties. When it is found, it should be discounted 1 to 2 points. Pure white is a disqualification. Creaminess of plumage is the defect most often found in White varieties. This must be discounted from one-fourth to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. When the quill, the fluff and web of the feather show creamy, cut from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Often you will find in White varieties the quill of the primaries gray or light brown in color from the base nearly half way up the feather. This is a serious defect and should be discounted from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Gray ticking or small splotches of gray in primaries or secondaries



should be cut from one-half to 2 points. In Buff varieties, mealiness on the wing bows of both male and female is often found, which should be cut 1 to 1½ points, according to the extent of the defect. Another common defect in Buff varieties is gray in the base of primaries, often running well up on the quills of the feather. This defect should be cut from one-half point to the color limit of this section, which is 2 points. Black peppering in either primaries or secondaries should be severely discounted, cutting from one-half to 2 points. Breeders of Buff varieties are now producing greater uniformity of color than ever before, both in males and females, but often you will find too heavy a color, sometimes bordering on red on the shoulders and wing bows of the male. This serious defect should be discounted from one-half to 2 points, according to the severity of the defect and the extent it has in destroying the harmony of uniform color which should prevail in all Buff specimens. Columbian varieties and Light Brahmas often show brassiness on the wing bows and should be discounted 1 point for such defect. Another defect, which seems to be very general in these varieties, is primaries that are practically white in color. As the Standard calls for black primaries, with just a slight white edging on lower edge of lower webs, a wing with no black in primaries should be discounted 2 points. However, a cut as low as one-half can be made, according to seriousness of defect.

## BACK

While the Scale of Points for a number of the classes total the same on back, still there has been a different division made as to the importance of shape and color of this section on certain breeds. For instance, in the American and Mediterranean classes, back is given 10 points, divided 5 for shape and 5 for color. In the Asiatic and English classes, back is also given 10 points, but is divided as follows: 6 for shape and 4 for color. From this we may infer that the makers of the Standard considered the back shape of some breeds to be of more importance than that of others. Therefore, in judging, we must keep in mind that the same defects found in a Brahma or Orpington should be discounted heavier than if found in a Wyandotte or Leghorn. We also find that back shape is of just as much importance in the Brahma and Cochin Bantams as in the larger fowls of the same breeds. The successful judge must be able to apply the proper discounts in this section, perhaps more intelligently than in any other section, for the reason that so often the back shape practically makes the type of the specimen.

For example, the Rhode Island Red has a distinctive back shape, from the fact that it should be carried horizontally. Yet we see many Plymouth Rocks today that have identically the same shaped backs as the Rhode Island Reds and *vice versa*. The Plymouth Rock back should be nearly horizontal only to the saddle, while that of the Rhode Island Red should be per-

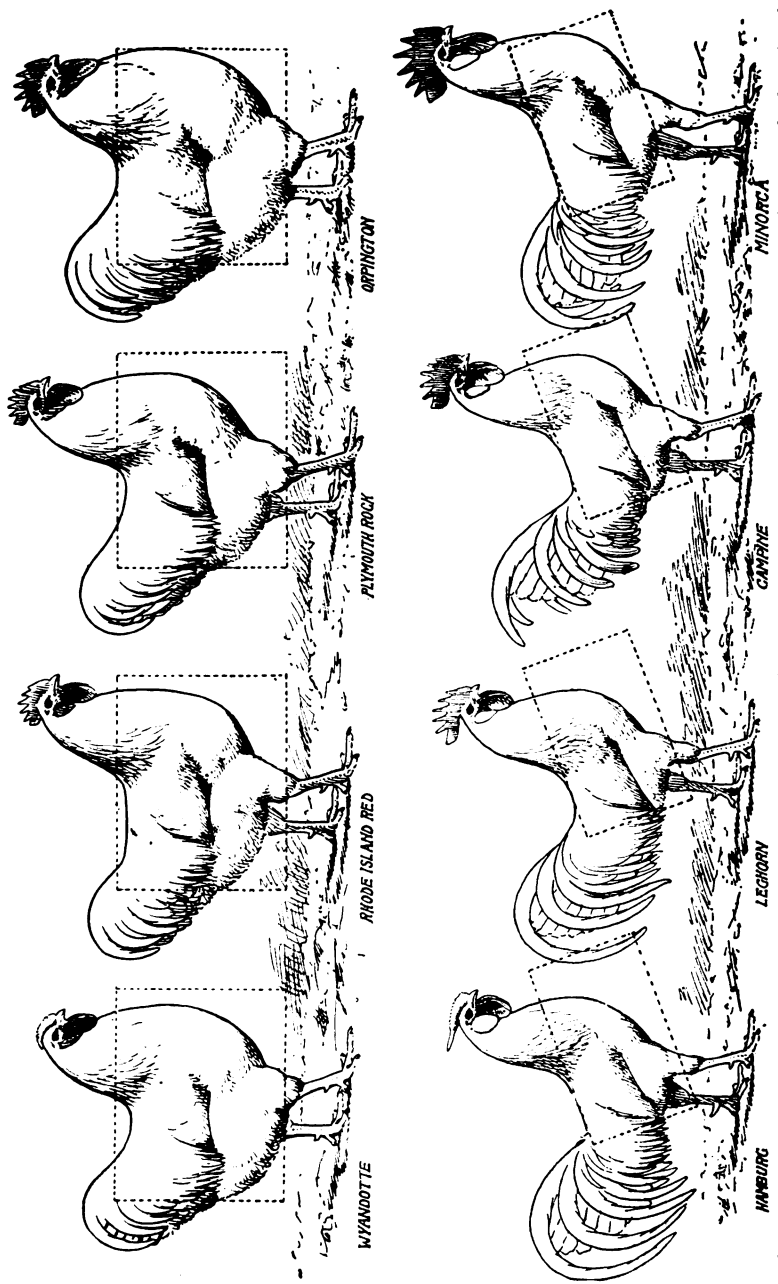


FIG. 7. The above plate, showing a comparison of breed types, offers a splendid opportunity for study and should prove of educational value to judges, breeders and amateurs. It is seldom that the variations of breed type are so clearly set forth and a little time spent in the study of the above illustrations should firmly impress upon the mind of the average breeder or judge a picture of the general outlines of the various varieties here illustrated, and give them a firmer understanding of standard requirements as applied to shape. The credit for the various types portrayed above belongs to Artist Schilling.

fectly horizontal the full length of the back. The back shape of practically every breed in the Standard is very clearly defined, and it is upon the application of these definitions that your success or failure depends. The important defects to look for in back shape are, shape foreign to breed characteristics, which should be cut from 1 to 2 points; backs that are narrow across the saddle, when a wide or broad saddle is designated. This defect should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. Roach backs or a back that has the appearance of a hump on it, should be cut, 1 point. Tendency to show cushion on breeds that should have none and lack of cushion on breeds that should show cushion, should be discounted from one-half to 1 point each. Backs too short or too long, for the breed being judged, should be discounted 1 point each. Crooked backs should be disqualified.

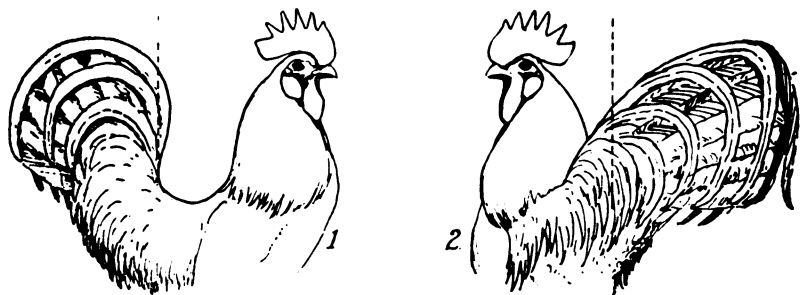
Back color is an important section, and there are numerous defects that detract from the appearance of the specimen. In all White varieties, brassiness is the most serious defect and should be cut from 1 to 2 points. Creaminess is perhaps more often found and should be cut from one-fourth to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Gray ticking is often found on the front part of the back or of the cape. This defect should be cut from one-half to 1 point. In Barred Plymouth Rocks, lack of barring in under color of both male and female, which produces either a smoky gray or a white under color, should be discounted severely, discounting from 1 to 2 points. Often in Barred Plymouth Rock males, striped feathers, or greenish black feathers edged with silvery white, will be found in the saddle. Such a defect should be discounted 1 point. Solid black feathers in back should be discounted one-half point. Red feathers are also sometimes found in the males and this is a disqualification. In all Buff varieties, the most common defect in both males and females is white in undercolor. This defect should be discounted from one-half to 2 points. Very heavy or reddish buff on the saddle of males should be cut 1 point. In Rhode Island Reds, unevenness in color of back and saddle is a serious defect and should be discounted severely. A cut of from 1 to 2 points is not too severe. Males are often found with an extreme dark shade of color across the front of back and shading to a light red on the saddle. This defect should be cut from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. White feathers are often found on the backs of males. If showing on the outer surface, they are a disqualification, if not, cut one point. Perhaps the defect most often found in this breed is the under color. This often runs from a grayish white to a deep chocolate brown. A cut of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points should be made for either extreme; from one-half to 1 point, where the defect is not so serious. Smut or slate in under color, where it is in the form of a bar across the feather, should be cut from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points; where it is intermingled with the red, from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. A defect becoming more noticeable in the Rhode Island Red male is a bronze shading on the back and saddle. This is a defect that should be discounted at least 1 point. In

all Silver Penciled varieties the following defects may often be found: Brassiness on the back which should be discounted from 1 to 2 points; absence of stripe in saddle, which should be discounted 1 to 1½ points; white edging not running around the end of feathers on saddle of males, discount 1 point; deficient penciling or stippling where there should be penciling in the backs of females, discount from 1 to 1½ points. A brownish cast on the surface of backs of females is a very serious defect and should be discounted 1½ points. Under color in both sexes is often very defective and should be discounted from one-half to 1½ points. The same cuts will apply to all Partridge varieties, taking, however, the difference in the color of the specimen into consideration.

Columbian varieties and Light Brahmas should be free from brassiness on the back and should be discounted from 1 to 2 points for such defect. In Laced varieties there are several common defects. Perhaps the most common is the absence of good clean centers in the feathers on the back and saddle of the females. This defect is called mossiness and should be cut from one-half to 1½ points, although a cut of one-half should be rare indeed, most specimens showing defective to the extent of 1 to 1½ points. Brassiness on the back should be cut 1 point and if the male shows smutty or a brownish tinge on the saddle feathers, a further cut of 1 point should be made. In all varieties which have a stripe running through the center of the feather, the stripe must not reach the extremity of the feather, but must be such that the proper lacing may be discernible around the feather. If the stripe runs to the extremity of the feather, a cut of 1 point should be made for the defect.

## TAIL

As in many other sections, the Scale of Points is not divided the same for Shape and Color in every class, some classes being allowed more for shape and some more for color. This makes it very important that the judge thoroughly study the Scale of Points for each class, so that he may intelligently apply the discounts in proportion to the amount of points allowed on any section in the different classes. Perhaps the first and most important thing that should be done before attempting to apply the Standard in regard to tail shape would be to study thoroughly the diagram in the Standard of Perfection, showing degrees from horizontal. This is of the utmost importance for if you have not mastered this diagram you will be unable to judge the degree at which the tail of a specimen is carried with any certainty. If the Standard of Perfection specifies that the male of a breed shall carry its tail at an angle of 40 degrees, it is important that before you judge that specimen you should know just how high 40 degrees would be. Knowing this, it would then be an easy matter to get the correct tail carriage. In all varieties in the Standard of Perfection, with the exception of the Japanese Bantams, tail carried forward of perpendicular is a disqualification.



## *MALES WITH DEFECTIVE TAIL CARRIAGE.*

1 *SQUIRREL*

2 *WRY*

Figure 8.

1. Showing tail carried forward of perpendicular (often called squirrel tail), which is a disqualification.

2. Showing Wry tail which is a disqualification. Great care should be taken to ascertain if tail is carried permanently Wry, as often a male, especially of the Mediterranean varieties, that is confined in a small coop will carry his tail sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, as a protection against hurt.

Wry tail or a tail that is carried permanently to one side, is also a disqualification, but great care should be taken in the show room before disqualifying a specimen for wry tail, because there are many specimens, especially in the Mediterranean males, that have been confined in such small coops and are unable to stand naturally in such small space, which causes them to carry their tails on one side for protection, but as soon as placed on the ground or in a large coop, readily straighten out. There is great variation in the carriage of tail in the different breeds, ranging from carriage at or slightly below horizontal as in the Cornish, to the high carriage of the Langshan tail, which should be carried at 70 degrees. If we include the Bantams we find the Red Malay with tail carriage below horizontal, Booted White Bantams with a tail carriage of 90 degrees, and the Japanese Bantam with tail carried forward of perpendicular. This should emphasize the importance of a thorough study of the correct degree of angle so that you may be able to intelligently interpret the Standard. Under the heading of "Instruction to Judges" in the Standard of Perfection there are a number of specific instructions given in regard to shape of tail which are so specific that it is not optional with the judge as to what he may discount, but if he finds the defects as stated, he must discount as instructed, if he would judge according to Standard. If he does not judge as per instructions in the Standard, he lays himself open to a protest, of which more will be said later. For instance, entire absence of main tail feathers, is a disqualification, but rarely will you find a specimen with entire absence of main tail feathers, even in moulting season. Tail not exceeding one-fourth development should be discounted 3 points. This cut generally applies where the specimen is in

full plumage otherwise, but the tail has been plucked to change the appearance of the specimen or to hide some defect in color. Tail not exceeding one-half development should be discounted 2 points and three-fourths development should be discounted 1 point. As with the wings, there are certain breeds that for-

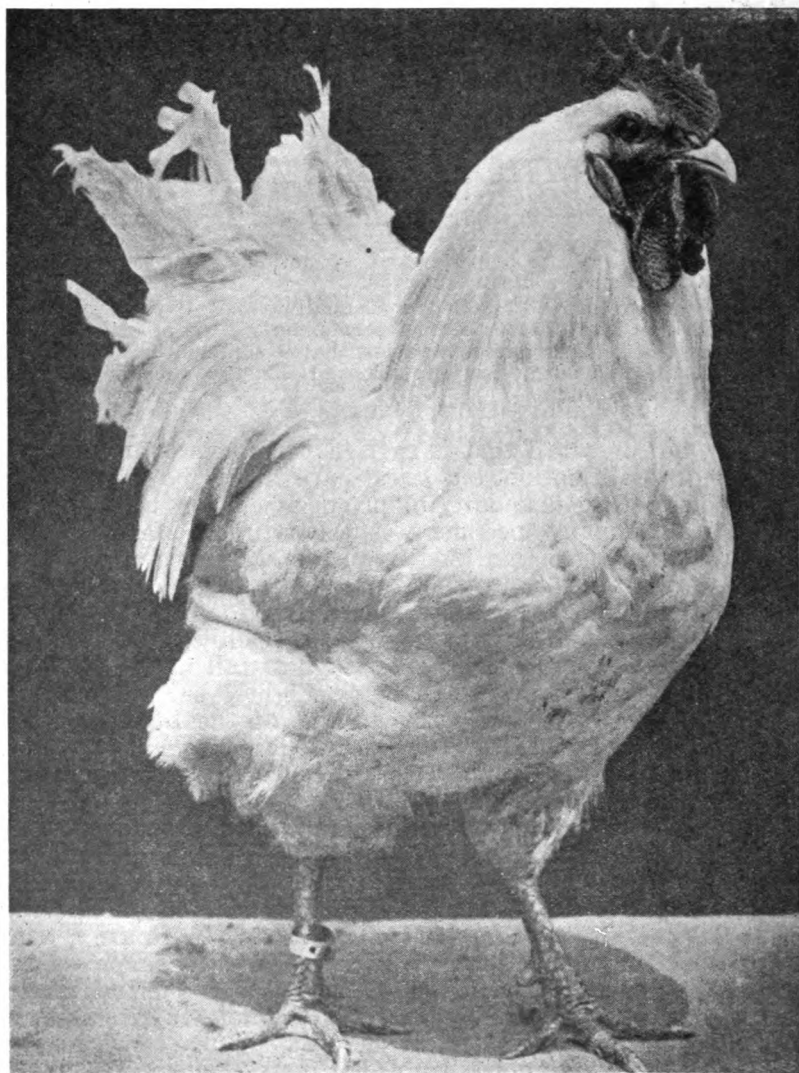


Figure 9.—Showing a split tail. This defect should be discounted from 1 to 2 points.

eign color in sickles or main tail feathers is a disqualification. All White, Black and Partridge varieties, together with the Barred Plymouth Rocks and Brown Leghorns, have color disqualifications in tail section; therefore, a main tail feather miss-

ing from either of the above breeds should be discounted 1 point. Another defect which seems of recent years to be common among some breeds is what is termed as a split tail. Generally, such specimens will have practically all their feathers with the exception of the sickles, but the conformation of the tail will be such that there will be quite a division or split between the feathers on either side of the tail. (See Figure 9.) This defect should be discounted from 1 to 2 points in addition to the proper discount for the missing sickles. Absence of sickles when foreign color disqualifies may be cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, but when there is no color disqualification, cut only 1 point. As before stated, these cuts should all be made for Shape and not for Color.

The proper angle at which a tail should be carried is not all a judge must take into consideration, in cutting for shape. All varieties in the American, Asiatic, Mediterranean, English (with the exception of the Cornish), Polish, Hamburg and Continental Classes, together with the Ornamental Bantams, should have a well spread tail—a tail that when viewed from the front of the fowl would look like an inverted V. Directly opposed to this well spread tail is the Cornish, all the Games and Game Bantams, which should have a closely folded and very compact tail. In all breeds the spread or closeness of the tail is just as important as the angle of carriage. There has been some controversy as to the number of main tail feathers a specimen should have, some claiming seven, others eight to each side, but as the Standard gives no specific number, the best breeders are getting eight on each side or sixteen to the tail, claiming that more feathers insure a better spread to the tail. Pinched or compact tails in all varieties that should have spread tails, should be cut from 1 to 2 points, and spread tails in all varieties that should be compact should be discounted the same.

There are so many defects in tail color of the different breeds that to attempt to enumerate all such defects would be practically impossible; however, we shall mention those most often found. In Barred Plymouth Rocks, uneven barring in the main tail feathers is, perhaps, the defect most often found. This should be cut one-half to 1 point, if seriously defective  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Another defect often found in Barred Plymouth Rock males is the absence of barring at the base of the sickle feathers, sometimes extending one or two inches up the feathers. This defect should be discounted 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Other defects in this breed is V-shaped barring on sickles, cotton under-color at the base of main tail and tail coverts. These defects should be cut from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Silver Laced and Penciled varieties, Partridge varieties and Brown Leghorns, are all inclined to have this cottony under-color, especially so at the base of the smaller sickles and the tail coverts, and a discount of from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points should be made in each instance. Creaminess in the base of main tail feathers is a defect most often found in White varieties and should be cut from one-half to one point. In Buff varieties we often find two extremes in color, one a faded out appearance,

giving one an impression of being bluish white in color, and the other being opposite, or a smoky gray in color. Both being serious defects, should be discounted at least 2 points. Peppering in tail, or a tail having the appearance of being mottled, should be discounted from one-half to 1½ points. In all Black varieties purple barring on sickles and tail coverts are the defects most often found. A discount of from one-half to 1 point is generally considered sufficient unless the purple shows in well defined bars, when a cut of 1½ points should be made. Tail color in the Anconas and Houdans is often found very deficient, many ranging from one-fourth white to nearly pure white. A discount of from 1 to 2 points should be made, according to the defect. Lack of the proper white tip on each main feather should be cut from one-half to 1 point. Red or brown in main tail feathers of Rhode Island Red should be discounted one-half to 1 point. The two top main tail feathers of Rhode Island Red female, may be edged with red. In the application of cuts for defects, the judge must always be governed by the importance of the defect, found in any section, and must not in any case overestimate the valuation as given in the Scale of Points.

### BREAST

As with other sections in the Scale of Points, the total number of points allotted to Breast varies in different classes, and not all classes are divided the same in regard to shape and color. For instance, in the American Class, breast shape is allotted five points and color five points, while in the Asiatic and English Classes, shape is allotted 6 points and color 4 points. In the smaller breeds, the Mediterranean, Polish and Hamburg Classes, the total number of points allotted to breast is only 8, equally divided between shape and color. Correct shape of breast is one of the most important things to be considered in judging a fowl, as a deficient breast does more than the defective shape of any other section to destroy the symmetrical outline of a specimen. The description of practically every breed in the Standard calls for either a full, deep, or well rounded breast, and the defect that most often found is the contracted, shallow breast. This, of course, is a serious defect and should be discounted from 1 to 2 points. Crooked breast or keel bone should be discounted from one-half to 2 points. In most breeds the males will be found more deficient in breast shape than the females.

It is often said that perfect breast color is more easily obtained than in any other section of the fowl. While this may be partly true in some breeds, yet, as a whole, proper breast color is very difficult to obtain. For instance, in the Partridge varieties, breeders are able to obtain better penciling than in any other section of the body, still it is very difficult to obtain the correct shade of color that will harmonize with the other sections. Many specimens are found with beautiful penciled feathers of the correct shade of mahogany brown on the lower part of the breast, but higher up, as the breast approaches the



juncture of the neck, the feathers will shade to a brownish red, or often to an orange color. Such defects should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Red splotches on feathers are often found on the breasts of males of all Partridge varieties, and, while many breeders contend that this color is beneficial in some cases in the breeding yards, still from an exhibition standpoint, or from a viewpoint of the Standard of Perfection, it is a defect and should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, according to the amount of defective color found.

In the Silver Penciled varieties we often find that, while the lower part of the breast may be finely penciled, the upper part may lose its distinctive penciling and show as a blur of ashy gray. This defect should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. The Laced varieties generally show the opposite in defective color marking, the lacing being better at the juncture of the neck to breast, and running more deficient at the juncture of breast with the body. Often the defect will be in the form of a splashed feather or feathers, creating a mottled appearance. This defect should be discounted from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Absence of lacing around the feather is also another defect generally found on breast and should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Frosting, or a very narrow lacing of white on the edge of the feather, should be discounted from one-fourth to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. In all Buff varieties, light colored shafting is the defect more often found. This should be discounted from one-half to 1 point, or in extreme cases,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. In the Rhode Island Red, mealiness, or a mealy, faded appearance of the feathers all over the breast, is perhaps the defect most often found. This should be discounted from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Pepperling on surface or smoky appearance in under color of this section should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. In all Mottled varieties, breast color is frequently too light, although in some cases we find color too dark. One defect is just as serious as the other, from an exhibition standpoint, and either should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Light Brown Leghorn females are rarely found that do not show some shafting in the breast section. This should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, according to the seriousness of the defect, and this same cut should be applied when the breast is ashy gray in color instead of salmon, as required by the Standard.

## BODY AND FLUFF

This is the next section in the Scale of Points, and in all of the more popular breeds you will note that shape is considered of more importance than color in these sections. Body shape is especially important, for the reason that if the body shape is not in proportion to the rest of the specimen you have destroyed the symmetrical proportion of any specimen. For instance, in Rhode Island Reds, the back should be broad and long, and if the body is not also broad, deep and long, you destroy the proportion of the specimen and the result is a specimen

shaped like a V instead of the generally accepted oblong or brick shaped specimen. The same theory holds good in every other breed, taking into consideration, of course, the difference in shape as described for other breeds in the Standard. As a rule, the majority of judges and breeders do not give body shape the proper consideration, and until this is done, you will not become proficient in the proper application of the Standard of Perfection.

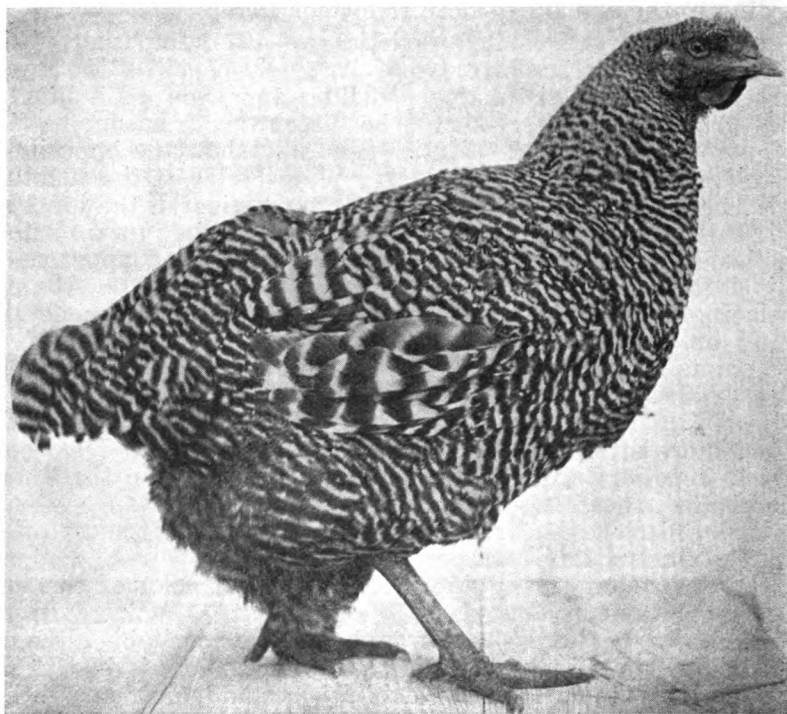


Figure 10.—Showing an individual with poor body shape. Too high in front and too low in rear. Such body shape should be discounted at least 1 point. This individual also shows poor back shape, tail carried below horizontal instead of 35 degrees, loose and baggy in rear and legs not set under body correctly.

Discounts in body shape generally range from one-half to 2 points, the defects most often found being as follows: Body too short, too shallow, as viewed from the perpendicular; or too narrow, as viewed from front or rear. Each of these defects, when pronounced, should be discounted at least 1 point. In color, perhaps there is more noticeable defects than in any other section. In Barred varieties, there is often a complete lack of barring in under color, which generally has a tendency to cause an indistinct or smoky surface. This defect should be discounted at least 1 point. Partridge varieties often show a complete lack of penciling, the feathers being either barred or stippled. A cut of one-half to 1 point should be given this de-

fect. Laced varieties are often found with nearly a solid colored feather, perhaps showing just a very small stripe in the center, instead of a wide, clear, open center, for which a cut of one-half to 1 point should be given. Solid colored varieties, White, Black and Buff varieties, do not as a rule show as many defects in body and fluff sections, as do the Parti-colored varieties, these sections being seemingly not so difficult to obtain in the solid colored varieties.

### LEGS AND TOES

The Scale of Points makes more variation in this section on the different breeds, than in any other section. It ranges from a minimum of 4 points—2 for shape and 2 for color—to a maximum of 14 points—10 for shape and 4 for color. The maximum of 14 points is used in the Scale of Points for Games and Game Bantams, because shape and length of legs are essential to superior quality in Games and Game Bantams. The English class has been allotted 5 points for shape of legs, it being important that they have a rather short, stout thigh and shank, and specimens that do not conform to this description should be severely discounted. Perhaps the defect most often found in nearly all breeds is the narrowness between the legs of practically all varieties, or, in other words, legs that are, or seem to be, set too far under the body and not coming down in a straight line with the outside of the body.

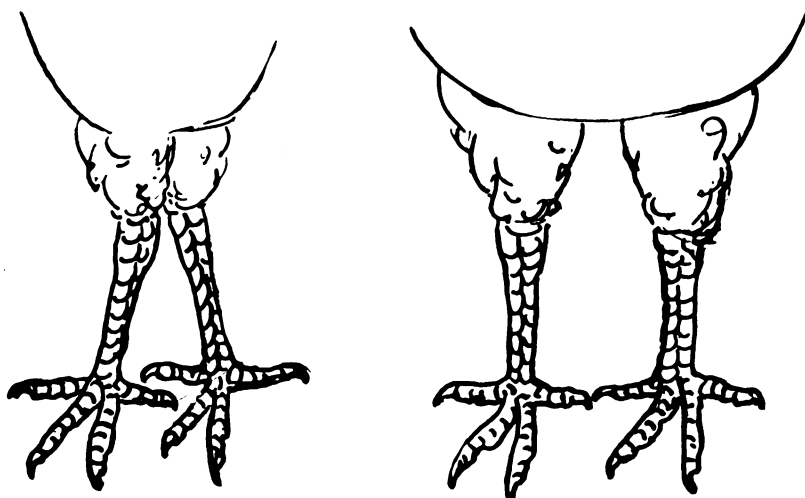


Figure 11.—Showing the imperfect and perfect thighs and shanks. Specimens like the first illustration should be discounted at least 2 points.

In nearly every instance where we find legs set too close together, we find that the specimen is also inclined to be knock-kneed. Either defect in itself is serious, but in the combination, we have a defect that is ruinous to the general symmetry of the specimen, and, therefore, the defect should be discounted accordingly. Legs set too close together should be cut 1 point, knock-

knees, one point; if both are in combination, a cut of 2 points should be made.

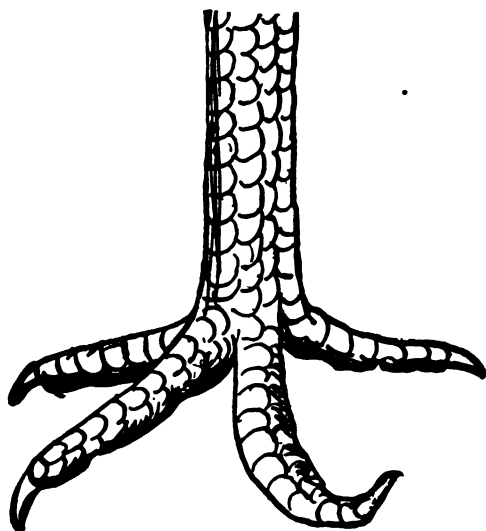


Figure 12.—Crooked toes should be discounted  $\frac{1}{2}$  point each.

Crooked toes on any variety should be cut one-half to 1 point. Many breeders, instead of punching the web of the foot to mark their fowls, have a habit of cutting off a part of the toe. In judging, this should be considered a defect and a cut of one-half point made, if a part of the toe is missing. If the whole of any toe is missing, it is clearly a disqualification, because the Standard provides that more or less than the required number of toes on either foot shall be a disqualification. The breeder and judge must know what breeds and varieties are required to have either four or five toes on each foot, and if the required number are not there, the specimen should be disqualified. Web feet are not often found in chickens, except in the feather legged varieties and Bantams. When found, it is a disqualification. In judging feather legged varieties, the judge must carefully study the requirements of the Standard, in order to be able to apply the disqualifications and discounts properly. For example, in the Asiatic Class there are three breeds of fowls, all having feathers on legs and toes, yet the Standard requirements are different for each one. Bare middle toes, that is the absence of feathers on the middle toes of any of the Cochins, is a disqualification, while the Langshans are required to have bare middle toes. For feathered middle toes in Langshans, a cut of one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points must be made, while a bare middle toe on the Brahams must be given a cut of 1 point. Vulture-hock, that is, stiff quill feathers growing on the thighs and extending backward straight beyond the hock, or knee joint, is a disqualification in either Brahmas or Cochins. All of the above disqualifications or defects apply to the same varieties in Bantams as in the larger breeds. There are two

varieties of Bantams that are required to have vulture hocks, and the absence of same would disqualify. These varieties are the Mille Fleur and the Sultans. When the Standard requires moderately heavy or very heavy feathering on the shanks and toes of a variety, absence of the required amount should be discounted from one-half to 1 point. In all smooth legged varieties, stubs on shanks or down between the toes, or unmistakable evidence of same having been removed, is a disqualification.

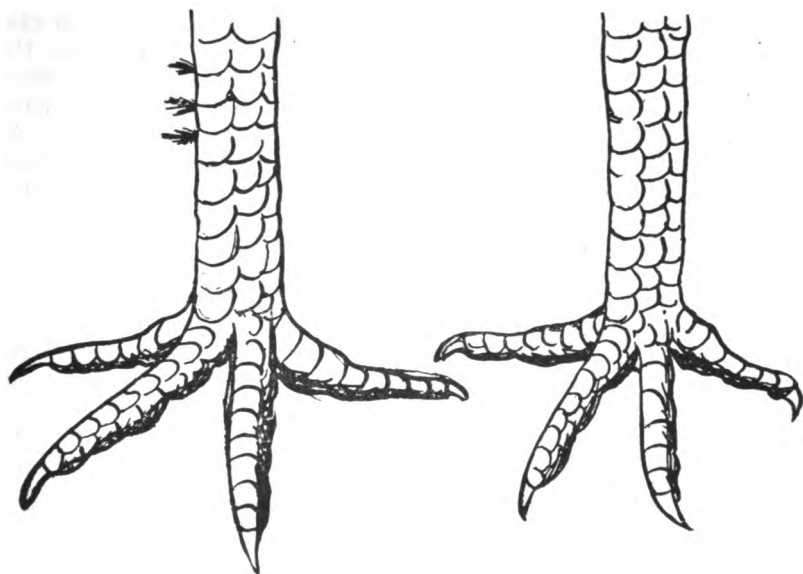


Figure 13.—Showing stubs on the shanks. Stubs and down are often found between the toes as well as on the shanks, and where found is a disqualification.

There has been much controversy over what constitutes unmistakable evidence as to whether stubs or down has been removed. It has generally been conceded by breeders and judges alike, that if a stub is removed it will leave a hole that can only be filled with some foreign substance. This would be considered "faking," and, as a rule, breeders do not resort to such methods. But the presence of a hole or holes filled with any foreign matter, or the presence of a hole or holes in the sides of the legs or shanks, is generally considered an unmistakable evidence, and the specimen should be dealt with accordingly. There are numerous color disqualifications for legs and feet in the Standard, and it is important that the breeder and judge become thoroughly familiar with these. We shall not attempt to enumerate these disqualifications. The Standard is explicit on all of them. We shall just take the defects most often found in the show room and give the discounts that should be applied for same.

In all varieties that should have yellow shanks, paleness

of shank is not considered a disqualification, providing they show a yellowish tinge around the scales or on the bottoms of feet. This defect, however, should be discounted from one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points. Dark spots on the shanks of Barred Plymouth Rocks should be cut 1 point. Greenish spots on the shanks of the Anconas or any of the Cornish should be discounted 1 point.

### CREST, BEARD AND MUFFS

These are three sections that only apply to a few varieties of Polish and Polish Bantams; two breeds in the French class which have Crest and Beard; one breed in the same class that has Beard and Muffs; the Mille Fluer Bantams which would have beard only; the Silkie with crest only, and the Sultan, which should have the novel feature of a crest, beard and muffs. Absence in any breed, where required, would disqualify. The shape of crest in all varieties is of much more importance than color, the maximum being 10 points allotted to shape on Polish. It is important that the crest in this variety be large and well rounded, falling over on both sides, being erect enough in front, however, not to obstruct the sight. Crests that obstruct the sight should be discounted 2 points. Crests that are divided in the center, small and not profuse, should be discounted from 1 to 2 points. In color, crests generally are nearly true to color, with possibly the exception of the White Crested Black Polish and the Houdan. In the White Crested Black Polish, the defect most often found is a sprinkling of black feathers throughout the crest. This defect should be discounted from one-half to 1 point; while in the Houdan, the opposite is true. Instead of black feathers predominating, as required, white feathers are often in the large majority. The same discount, one-half to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, should be applied in either case. In the bearded varieties, the beard should be thick and full, and it is very rare, indeed, that we find a beard that really needs discounting for shape.

### DUCKS, GEESE AND TURKEYS

Under the provisions of the 1915 Standard of Perfection, judges are no longer required to score turkeys or waterfowl, and in view of this provision, judges are rarely called upon to score the above at any show, but premiums are awarded by comparison. This, however, does not mean that you should not be familiar with the Scale of Points provided for each breed, because if you are not, you cannot intelligently select your best specimens according to Standard requirements, and cannot intelligently award premiums at a show without knowing what sections of the specimens the greatest valuation is placed upon.

In some classes greater valuation is placed on Breast and Body; other classes, Carriage; while in other classes Weight is the greatest consideration. The Standard of Perfection is very specific in the disqualifications of Ducks, Geese and Turkeys, and it is up to the student to thoroughly familiarize himself

with all these disqualifications and other requirements as to shape and color, so that when he is placed in a position to make a decision between two or more specimens, he can do so with the confidence that he knows the requirements of the Standard, which enables him to make that decision intelligently, and further, that knowing these requirements, he is able to give a good and sufficient reason as to why he made his decision, being backed up by the requirements laid down by the American Standard of Perfection.



## QUESTIONS ON APPLYING THE SCIENCE OF JUDGING

### LESSON No. 52

1. Name your breed and tell in what Class you would place it.
2. Name all the Breed disqualifications that apply to your breed.
3. Are there any General Disqualifications that apply to your breed that are not in the Breed disqualifications? If so, name them.
4. Give the Standard weights of your breed.
5. What, in your opinion, should the successful judge have in mind at all times, while judging a show?
6. What is the minimum and the maximum cut that you can give on any defect found in a specimen for shape? (b) For Color?
7. What, in your opinion, are the main reasons for differences of opinion among judges in scoring fowls, or placing awards by Comparison?
8. Do you think a successful judge should know anything about breeding the different varieties? If so, why?
9. Is there any difference between a defect and a disqualification? If so, what?
10. Do all breeds have the same disqualifications? If not, name exceptions.
11. Do all varieties of the same breed have the same disqualifications? If not, name exceptions.
12. Are there any varieties of different breeds that have the same color? If so, name them.
13. In applying a cut for symmetry, if, in your opinion a specimen was 25 per cent defective, how much would you discount?
14. How would you determine just what discount should be made for symmetry.
15. Are there any breeds in the Standard that do not have the term symmetry applied to them? If so, name them.
16. Does the weight clause apply to all breeds? If not, name exceptions.
17. Are there any breeds that are discounted for overweight? If so, name them.
18. If you were judging a show, would you require specimens to be weighed. If not, why?
19. Is there any season of the year in which you are permitted to judge a score card show without considering weight? If so, when?
20. What are the disqualifying weights of your variety?



## LESSON No. 53

1. If you were judging a Barred Plymouth Rock and a White Leghorn and each had a comb 25 per cent deficient, how much would you cut them?
2. The comb of a Minorca, which you are judging, has only 3 serrations, a thumb mark and a side sprig. How much would you discount same?
3. How much would you discount a Rose Comb with three spikes in rear?
4. How many points should there be on each row of a Pea Comb?
5. What part of the Head would you consider to be the face of a fowl?
6. Are there any disqualifications applying to the face of any breed? If so, name them.
7. Are there any disqualifications applying to the beak or bill of a fowl, either in shape or color? If so, name them.
8. What is the minimum and the maximum cut that you can give for color of eye?
9. (a) What is your variety? (b) How much would you cut a missing wattle on a cock of your variety?
10. Suppose a White Leghorn cock or cockrel had a little white in his face, how much would you discount him?
11. How much white is permitted in the ear lobes of Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, or Javas, before they should be disqualified?
12. Which, in your opinion, is the most important: The neck shape of a Barred Plymouth Rock or a Brown Leghorn? Why?
13. What breed in the Standard is given most points for neck shape in the Scale of Points?
14. Suppose, in judging a class, you had a Rhode Island Red male you considered 50 per cent deficient in neck color, how much would you discount?
15. Is there any specified number of pencilings that should be found on the feathers of Pencilled varieties? If so, how many?
16. How much would you discount for white in the base of the neck, primaries, or secondaries of a Brown Leghorn male?
17. Is there any difference, in your opinion, between a split wing and a slipped wing? Give your discounts for each one.
18. How much would you discount two missing primary feathers in a Barred Plymouth Rock wing? A Buff Orpington wing? A White Langshan wing?
19. Are there any breeds in the Standard in which a clipped wing does not disqualify? If so, name them.
20. How is the wing divided? Name divisions.

## LESSON No. 54

1. If you were judging a fowl with a wing 25 per cent deficient in primaries, 25 per cent deficient in secondaries, 25 per cent deficient in wing bow, 25 per cent deficient in wing bar, how much would you cut?

2. Suppose a Barred Plymouth Rock has one solid black primary and one solid black main tail feather, what would you do in judging?

3. Is there any breed or breeds in which twisted wing or tail feathers disqualify? If so, name them.

4. In what breeds do you find mossiness? Name them all.

5. Which, if either, is the most important, the back shape of a Buff Wyandotte or a Buff Orpington? Why?

6. Which would you consider most important in any variety, Shape or Color? Why?

7. In what breeds do you find Frosting? Name them all?

8. How much would you discount a male specimen that you found in the show room with the absence of neck and saddle hackle?

9. Are all breeds disqualified for tail carried forward of perpendicular (squirrel tail)? If not, name exceptions.

10. Describe the feather sections in the tail of a male that you would look for when judging.

11. What are the shape and color disqualifications in the tail of your variety?

12. What breed in the Standard has the highest tail carriage (Japanese Bantams excluded)? What breed the lowest?

13. Is absence of sickle feathers in any breed generally considered a serious defect? What would you discount for their absence?

14. Is breast shape considered more important than color in any breeds? If so, name them.

15. In how many varieties do you find mealiness? Name them.

16. Which do you consider the most important, breast shape or body shape? Why?

17. To what breeds does the Scale of Points give most on body shape?

18. Suppose, in judging a show, you had a specimen that you considered 25 per cent deficient in shape of legs and toes and you cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$  points, what breed would you be judging?

19. Name all the breeds that should have five toes on each foot.

20. Should all feathered-legged breeds have legs and toes feathered alike? If not, name differences.

## LESSON No. 55

1. In judging a show, which would you consider first, Shape or Color? Why?
2. In sweepstake competition, is there any handicap that applies to any breeds? If so, what?
3. Suppose you had three Rhode Island Red cockrels in a class, one scoring 89 points, another 86 points, and the other 85 points, what awards would you give them?
4. If you had three pens of Barred Plymouth Rocks, one composed of a cock and four hens, scoring 178 points; another composed of a cockrel and four pullets, scoring 179 points, and the other composed of a cockrel, two hens and two pullets, scoring 179 points, how would you place them?
5. What prize could you give a White Rock Cock scoring 89 points?
6. How much would you cut a Black Orpington Cock, weighing 7 ½ pounds?
7. Would you disqualify a Black Langshan, Black Minorca or an Ancona for a red feather in neck?
8. If you had two Wyandotte pullets, both scoring 92, one weighing 5 ½ and the other 6 pounds, which would you award First, and why?
9. If you had two Light Brahma Cockrels, both scoring 92 points, and both Standard weight, how would you decide in placing awards on these specimens?
10. Describe fully the difference between a Red Sussex and a Single Comb Rhode Island Red.
11. Which is the heaviest breed of Geese? Give all the disqualifications of this breed.
12. Describe fully the difference between African and Brown Chinese geese.
13. Give all the disqualifications of Mammoth Bronze Turkeys.
14. Describe fully the difference between a Pekin and an Aylesbury duck.
15. In judging game Bantams, which are the two most important sections you would consider?
16. What do you consider the most important color sections in Mammoth Bronze Turkeys? Why?
17. Do you consider shape more important than color in a Runner Duck? If so, why?
18. Name all the disqualifications of a Bourbon Red Turkey.
19. There is a provision made in the Standard for "Texture of Plumage." To what breed or breeds does it apply?
20. In judging a show, if there is any doubt in your mind as to the interpretation of the Standard, what course would you pursue?























